SHS announces spay/neuter clinic and schedule for August. PAGE 3

Major changes to SBA disaster lending program. PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

$1

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ANTI-DRUG TASK FORCE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The leaders of six law enforcement agencies meet last Wednesday at the Office of the Governor's conference room to sign an agreement to reestablish and reorganize the Joint Drug Prevention Task Force. All agencies present have agreed to work together to tackle the drug problem in the CNMI. ***Story on Page 2***

Federal appeals court just made medication abortions harder to get in Guam

By REBECCA BOONE and ED KOMENDA
Associated Press

People seeking medication abortions on the U.S. Territory of Guam must first have an in-person consultation with a doctor, a federal appeals court says, even though the nearest physician willing to prescribe the medication is 3,800 miles (6,100 kilometers)—an 8-hour flight—away.

The ruling handed down Tuesday by a unanimous three-judge panel on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals could make it even more difficult for pregnant people to access abortions on the remote island where 85% of residents are Catholic and about 1 in 5 live below the poverty line.

See FEDERAL on Page 4

Cop's gun tied to Kagman shooting

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has arrested one of its own after a crime lab analysis in Guam showed that the bullet that had hit a child in the face in Kagman in May this year had come from his service-issued firearm.

DPS arrested over the weekend police officer Raymond L Saralu, whose gun was allegedly used in the accidental shooting of the 7-year-old boy in Kagman.

According to DPS spokesperson Fred Sato, Saralu was arrested late last Friday afternoon on charges of aggravated assault and battery and storage

See COP on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
54

CPA's search for new executive chief begins

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

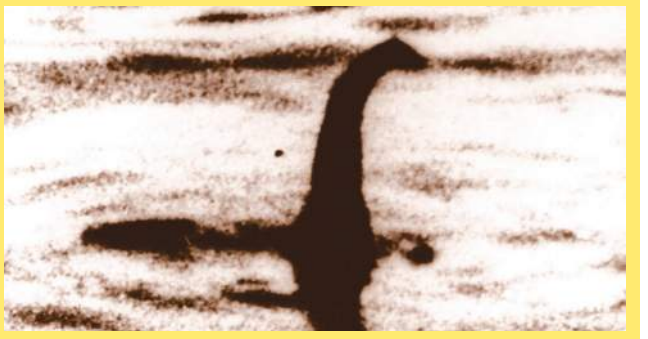
The Commonwealth Ports Authority has officially begun the search for a new executive director following the voluntary resignation of former executive director Christopher Tenorio.

During a regular board meeting last Friday, CPA board members unanimously voted to open up the position of executive director to the public, kickstarting the search for the agency's new chief.

Although there are still issues to be discussed, including minimum requirement for the position, CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds clarified that one thing is clear—the position will be open to the entire Micronesian region as well as the

See CPA on Page 4

'Monster hunters' wanted in new search for the mythical Loch Ness



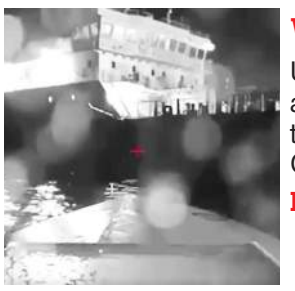
This undated file photo shows a shadowy shape that some people say is a the Loch Ness monster in Scotland, later debunked as a hoax. AP

LONDON (AP)—The Loch Ness Centre in Scotland is calling for "budding monster hunters" and volunteers to join in what it dubs the larg-

See MONSTER on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
The job market has cooled over the summer. But it's still strong enough to defy predictions.
PAGE 11



WORLD
Ukrainian drones hit a Russian tanker in the Black Sea near Crimea late Friday.
PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE
More than 1,400 of Freddie Mercury 's personal items are going on display in a free exhibition.
PAGE 15

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Local

Law enforcers revive Joint Drug Prevention Task Force

The leaders of six law enforcement agencies recently inked an agreement to reestablish and reorganize the Joint Drug Prevention Task Force. Drugs, specifically ice, have continued to negatively impact the CNMI. Agencies are seeing more cases of drug use especially in younger people, an increase in property crimes linked to the habit, and other crimes. The goal of the joint task force is to stop drugs from coming in through the CNMI's ports.

Public Safety Commissioner Clement R. Bermudes, Corrections Commissioner Anthony C. Torres, Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita, Customs and Biosecurity director Jose C. Mafnas, Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Christopher S. Tenorio represented by Ports Police chief Juan T. Dela Cruz, and Commerce Secretary Francisco D. Cabrera met with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang last Wednesday morning to commemorate the joint collaboration. All agencies present have agreed to work together to tackle the drug problem in the CNMI.

Apatang emphasized that not only would this collaboration help those in the CNMI affected by drugs, but its "success is critical for the safety of our tourists as well."

Palacios stressed that the task force should not "limit themselves to the enforcement part of it, but also look at the drug problem holistically."

At the conclusion of the meeting, Bermudes noted the importance of rehabilitation, saying, "Let's work on curing the demand so that the supply gets cut off." ***(PR)***

PH govt: OECs now issued for free

Starting July 29, 2023, the issuance of all forms of Overseas Employment Certificate for Filipino foreign workers who are returning to their original point of hire (technically called Balik-Manggagawa in Filipino government parlance) shall be free of charge and will not require issuance of an official receipt.

A Philippines Department of Migrant Workers notice dated July 25, 2023, states that this new OEC policy is part of the implementation of department circular No. 2 series of 2023, on the renaming of the Overseas Employment Certificate to OFW Pass and lifting of fees on OFW Pass to rehires or Balik-Manggagawa OFWs.

In the interest of the service and in accordance with the Department Circular No. 02. Series of 2023. the issuance of all forms of Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC) for rehires or Balik-Manggagawa (BM) shall be free of charge effective 29 July 2023, 12:01 AM (Philippine Time) As such, the issuance of manual or digital OEC will not require the issuance of an official receipt. ***(PR)***

AK DONATION TO HARVEST HOUSE AK

Atkins Kroll donated backpacks, tennis shoes, and water bottles to Harvest House last Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023, to support Guam's foster children. Donations were collected throughout the summer and is part of AK's Community Matters program, which aims to donate to non-profit organizations that make our community a better place to live, work, play, and visit. Pictured from left are Ruth Urraca, Harvest House summer intern; John Perez, AK regional health safety environment manager; Valerie Busenitz, Harvest House summer intern; Alicia Roberto, AK parts manager; Joanna Javellana, Harvest House resource center coordinator; Pamela Santos, AK facilities supervisor; and Trina Cruz, AK marketing and communications director.

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SHS announces spay/neuter clinic and schedule for August

Saipan Humane Society is thrilled to announce the schedule for the month of August, which includes regular sick visits, wellness check-ups for preventive care, and a visiting veterinarian to provide spay/neuter surgeries. All services will be offered at the Saipan Mayor's Dog Control Shelter, in partnership with the Saipan Dog Control team.

According to an SHS news release over the weekend, the first two weeks of August will focus on wellness and sick visits provided by Saipan Humane Society's regular team. The dates and hours are Aug. 7-10, and Aug. 14-16, from 10am to 2pm.

Clients can purchase Bravecto for flea and tick prevention, get their pets dewormed and vaccinated, and bring sick pets for evaluation and consultation with virtual veterinarians if necessary. While our services are not free, the prices are set with the intention of ensuring that the entire community has access to animal healthcare.

The clinic will be closed on Aug. 17 and 18 to prepare for the spay/neuter clinic. A visiting veterinarian from Animal Balance will perform 20-25 sterilization surgeries daily from Aug. 21-25 and Aug. 28-31, with a primary focus on dogs.

Animal Balance is an international 501c3 non-profit organization that partners with High Volume High-Quality Spay/Neuter veterinarians, sending them all over the world to perform spay/neuter surgeries in areas of need. To sign up for surgery, check the Saipan Humane Society website this Wednesday for the sign-up link to self-schedule your pet's surgery.

Saipan Humane Society, a 501c3 non-profit organization, has been working diligently behind the scenes to expand services and hours in filling the void left by the sudden closure of Saipan Cares for Animals in May.

SHS would also like to announce that August is National Clear the Shelter Month. In efforts to promote adoptions from the Saipan Mayor's Animal Shelter, there will be an adoption event on Aug. 12 at the Saturday Farmer's Market with puppies and dogs. In honor of Clear The Shelter Month, all adoptions will come with a complimentary pet supplies basket, first vaccine, deworming, and flea/tick medication. There will also be a pet food distribution to the community and a pet supplies/wellness package raffle.

As always, Saipan Humane Society is grateful for the support of the community. They would like to express their dedication and long-term commitment to serving the CNMI, and are excited to see what the future holds. ***(PR)***

Saipan Roteract eyes expanded goals as the club nears 10 years of service

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Rotaract Club of Saipan pose with guest speakers 2021 Miss Marianas Savannah Lyn Dela Santos, and Rotary Club of Saipan New Generations director Gregory Borja after the club's installation ceremony last July 29, 2023 at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

As they near 10 years of service, the Rotaract Club of Saipan looks forward to a year full of activities under the baton of freshly inducted leaders who were installed in a ceremony last July 29, 2023, at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

The club of young leaders welcomed their Rotaract Year 2023-24 officers and directors, with Richard Enrico Baleares being inducted to serve his third consecutive year as the club's president.

In his remarks, Baleares said he looks forward to the upkeep of their newly adopted bus stop in Kagman, possibly resuming their Financial Literacy Project with the Bank of Saipan, holding activities such as a 5K Fun Run, and potentially hosting a 10K Bike Race to add to their regular cleanups and collaborative community service events with their parent club, the Rotary Club of Saipan.

"While I was able to travel to Guam and Japan last Rotary Year, I hope that, with the work we are about to partake in, we are able to have multiple Rotaractors travel off-island, namely to South Korea to establish a sistership with the Rotaract Club of Soonchungyang University (the Rotaract Club sponsored by the Rotary Club of Saipan's sister club in Onyang), and the annual District 2750 conference in Tokyo, Japan. At the same time, we'll have to prepare ourselves for the possibility of Rotaractors coming down to visit our islands for the first time in over four years as we did a pretty good job in showcasing Saipan's beauty to our Japanese, South Korean, and Guamanian brothers and sisters. When they do, I know we'll have a great time together." he said.

Along with Baleares, Rayna Sablan was installed as the club's vice president and two-term returning Community Service director, and Jefferson Cunanan in his second consecutive year as secretary. Arriane Antonio became the club's treasurer as well as Professional Development director; Michael Camacho was installed as the Club Service director; Melissa Borja is the International Service director for a second consecutive year; and Brent Espineda is the new Finance director.

Rotary Club of Saipan president Irene Holl and Rotary Club of Saipan past president/New Generations director Gregory Borja administered the swearing in of the new officers and, alongside 2021 Miss Northern Marianas Savannah Lyn Delos Santos, were the guest speakers of the evening.

The Rotaract ceremony was attended by members of the Rotary Club of Saipan, as well as Interact Club members from Marianas High School and Saipan International School.

The Rotary International Theme for this year is "Create Hope in the World."

As the Rotaract Club nears its 10 years of "service above self," Baleares said, "I hope all of us remember what brought us here in the first place, and I hope that this memory will encourage everyone to continue partaking in the fellowship of Rotaract, where we put service above self and in doing so, we become closer and stronger as a club."

The Rotaract is a Rotary Club partner for youth members (18 and older).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

August is National Clear the Shelter Month. In efforts to promote adoptions from the Saipan Mayor's Animal Shelter, there will be an adoption event on Aug. 12 at the Saturday Farmer's Market with puppies and dogs.

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Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: August 7, 2023

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ)-Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing federal consistency submissions from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). More information about the determinations can be accessed on the DCRM website at the following links:

1) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Proposed amendments to the Mariana and Pelagic Fishery Ecosystem Plans (FEPs) to update standardized bycatch reporting methodologies: https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/ NMFS-Proposed-Amendments-Standardized-Bycatch-Reporting-CNMI-7.27.2023.pdf

2) NMFS - Negative determination for proposed green sea turtle critical habitat designation: https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/NMFS-Sea-Turtle-Habitat-Designation-Negative-Determination-7.28.2023.pdf

3) National Ocean Service (NOS) - Removal of abandoned and derelict vessels from Rota, CNMI: https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/NOAA-NOS-Abandoned-and-Derelict-Vessels-Removal-from-Rota-CNMI-Waters-7.26.2023.pdf

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the CNMI coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's federally approved Coastal Management Program (CMP).

For more information, or to submit comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI CMP, please contact the Division of Coastal Resources Management at fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on August 7, 2023 and ending on August 22, 2023. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

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Palacios signs into law public corruption bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signed into law last week a bill that expands and clarifies the offense of official misconduct and establishing felony and misdemeanor punishments.

Palacios also signed into law a bill that aims to provide clarity to the crime of promoting prison contraband and outlines appropriate punishment.

» Governor also enacts into law the prison contraband legislation

The anti-public corruption bill, House Bill 23-15, House Substitute 1, now goes into the records as Public Law 23-06.

The House of Representatives passed the legislation last March 17 with amendments. It was then referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law. The full Senate passed the bill last June 23 without amendments.

Rep. Vicente C. Camacho (D-Saipan), who is the author of the legislation, stated in the bill that public officials must be held to a standard commensurate to the high esteem in which they are held.

Palacios

Camacho said this bill provides an expanded and clarified definition of official misconduct and assigns specific felony and misdemeanor punishments, depending on the type of underlying misconduct.

The prison contraband legislation, House Bill 23-17, is enacted into Public Law 23-07.

The House passed the bill last March 9 with amendments upon the recommendation of the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee. The legislation was then referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law. The full Senate passed the bill without amendments last June 23 upon the committee's recommendation.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan), who is the author of the bill, earlier stated that it is a recycled bill that he first introduced in the 22nd Legislature.

Sablan said he re-introduced the legislation because the CNMI does not have any statute that deals with contraband being brought inside the local prison.

According to the legislation, current CNMI law regarding prison contraband is quite antiquated, and does not take intoaccount the current needs of the Department of Corrections to secure its facilities.

Clarification in the law is needed to redefine what items are prohibited, along with appropriate penalties for those who introduce, possess and promote contraband in correctional facilities.

The bill defines what items are considered contraband.

GCC to cut ribbon today on student center canopy

Guam Community College will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its Student Center Canopy today, Aug. 7, 2023, at 11:30am. The concrete canopy covers the stage of the Student Square. Construction on the 4,300 square foot Student Center Canopy began in September 2022.

The concrete canopy is part of GCC's ongoing plan to ensure the campus is conducive to learning and promotes engagement among the students. This addition to the campus allows students to use the area at all times, without worrying about the weather.

The canopy also contains a 20-kilowatt grid-tied photovoltaic system and wireless multi-color stage lighting technology for events.

It was designed by Taniguchi Ruth Makio Architects and BME & Sons was awarded the construction project. ***(GCC)***

FEDERAL

From page 1

The last doctor to provide abortions in Guam retired in 2018, leaving people seeking the procedure without local options.

That changed in 2021 when a lower court partially lifted the territory's in-person consultation requirement and said two Guam-licensed physicians in Hawaii could provide medication abortions via telemedicine to people in Guam.

The appellate court panel reversed that ruling Tuesday, saying Guam can enact the laws it thinks are best, even if others find them unwise.

"Guam has legitimate interests in requiring an in-person consultation: the consultation can underscore the medical and moral gravity of an abortion and encourage a robust exchange of information," wrote Judge Kenneth K. Lee.

Lee was appointed by former President Donald Trump in 2018 along with fellow panel member Judge Daniel P. Collins. The third member of the panel, Judge Carlos T. Bea, was appointed by former President George W. Bush in 2003.

Abortion rights advocates contend having no doctors able to provide abortions on the island creates a significant challenge to people seeking care. The court ruled other doctors there could conduct the in-person consultations even if they do not want to personally perform abortions themselves. It's not clear if any physicians in Guam are willing to take on that role.

"We are deeply disappointed that the court is permitting medically unnecessary government mandates to once again be enforced," said Alexa Kolbi-Molinas, the deputy director of the American Civil Liberties Union Reproductive Freedom Project. "Today's decision imposes unnecessary obstacles on people seeking abortion in Guam, but make no mistake, abortion remains legal in Guam and we will continue to do everything in our power to make sure it stays both legal and accessible."

Guam currently allows abortions in the first 13 weeks of pregnancy—or in the first 26 weeks in the case of rape or incest, grave fetal defects or serious risks to the pregnant person's life or health.

A 2012 Guam law required an in-person consultation 24 hours before an abortion. Two years ago, Hawaii-based Drs. Shandhini Raidoo and Bliss Kaneshiro sued over the law, saying they wanted to provide medication abortions to Guam residents via telemedicine. They argued that there was no rational government interest for the law and that it placed an undue burden on abortion-seeking patients. The lower court ruled in their favor in 2021, waiving the requirement and making it easier for abortion-seeking residents to find care.

In Tuesday's ruling, the appellate court said Guam can require an in-person consultation requirement because it has a "legitimate governmental interest of safeguarding fetal life."

The appellate panel also suggested people might be more likely to be talked out of abortions during in-person consultations.

"In the more solemn context of a face-to-face meeting—unlike a Zoom call—a pregnant woman may decide against an abortion after having a candid conversation at the clinic about the gestational age of her fetus and concluding that the fetus represents human life," Lee wrote for the panel.

Vanessa L. Williams, a Guam attorney who represents the doctors, said there is no health benefit to preventing telemedicine visits for abortions.

"A person's health should guide important medical decisions throughout pregnancy," Williams said, "not politics."

Another abortion-related lawsuit is still making its way through the courts: Attorney General Douglas Moylan is fighting in court to reinstate a 1990 law that made it a felony for a doctor to perform abortions except to save a woman's life or prevent grave danger to her health. The U.S. District Court on Guam blocked it from being enforced in 1992, citing Roe v. Wade, the landmark case that legalized abortion nationwide. It was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in June 2022.

A federal court in Guam denied Moylan's reinstatement request in March of this year, but Moylan has appealed to the 9th U.S. Circuit

COP

From page 1

of firearms charges.

Saralu was tied to the Kagman shooting incident after ballistic analysis from Guam reportedly showed that the bullet that hit the child came from his service-issued firearm.

"Based on the ballistic evidence collected by investigators at the location and analyzed by the Guam Police Department crime lab, it has been determined that the shell casings and fragments originated from the officer's government-issued firearm," said Sato.

The warrant for Saralu's arrest was signed by Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho and his bail was set at $50,000.

Saralu is expected to appear before the court today for a bail hearing.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, police responded to a disturbance incident in Kagman on May 21, at about 9:55pm.

At the scene, it was learned that 7-year-old boy was shot in the face while playing with a gun in a residence in Kagman.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the child and another minor were playing inside a relative's home when one of them somehow got hold of the gun. While handling the firearm, one of the children accidentally discharged the weapon.

The child was severely injured and was immediately rushed to Guam for surgery. Fortunately, the child made it through intensive surgery and is expected to make a full recovery.

CPA

From page 1

continental United States.

The position will officially be opened today, giving CPA ample transition time from the old executive director to the new as Tenorio has agreed to stay on board until October.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Tenorio officially announced his resignation from CPA last March 22 with an effectivity date of May 1. However, the CPA board prevailed on him to remain in his position until October.

Tenorio has been the CPA executive director since 2016.

In an earlier appearance before the Senate's Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications Committee, Tenorio appealed to members of the Senate to help provide some sort of relief for CPA as the agency's revenue has drastically decreased in the past few years as nearly all of CPA's airline partners suspended their flights to Saipan at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fortunately, he said, CPA received over $2 million in federal funds in 2021 to help them weather out the storm, he said. Unfortunately, those funds have been stretched as far as possible, but CPA still faces a massive decline in revenue, with the CNMI still trying to regain its economic footing.

CPA fears that, if no subsidy can be provided for CPA to continue operations, it may have to soon increase its airport rates just to get by, possibly risking the loss of airline partners, Tenorio said.

He also participated in drafting CPA's letter to the U.S. Department of Transportation to ask for supplemental funds to help CPA stay afloat without risking the loss of its airline partners.

To date, DOT has yet to provide any updates on CPA's request.

MONSTER

From page 1

est search for the Loch Ness Monster since the 1970s.

The visitor attraction said this week that modern technology such as drones that produces thermal images of the lake will "search the waters in a way that has never been done before."

The new surface water search for the fabled "Nessie," planned for the weekend of Aug. 26 and 27, is billed as the largest of its kind since the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau studied the loch for signs of the mythical beast in 1972.

The Loch Ness Centre is located at the old Drumnadrochit Hotel, where in 1933 manager Aldie Mackay reported spotting a "water beast" in the loch, the largest body of freshwater by volume in the United Kingdom and one of its deepest.

The story kicked off an enduring worldwide fascination with finding the elusive monster, spawning hoaxes and hundreds of eyewitness accounts. Numerous theories or explanations have been put forward over the years, including that the creature may have been a plesiosaur, a prehistoric marine reptile, giant eels or even swimming circus elephants.

The Loch Ness Centre said its team will deploy drones equipped with infrared cameras so they can produce thermal images of the water from the air. A hydrophone will also be used to detect acoustic signals under the water.

Volunteers will be asked to keep an eye out for any breaks or other movements in the water, with guidance from experts on what to look out for and how to record findings.

"It's our hope to inspire a new generation of Loch Ness enthusiasts," said Alan McKenna, of Loch Ness Exploration, a voluntary research team taking part in the upcoming search.

"By joining this large-scale surface watch, you'll have a real opportunity to personally contribute towards this fascinating mystery that has captivated so many people from around the world," he added.

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FEMA awards NMI $1.3M more for Yutu costs

» Total FEMA grants for Yutu recovery now at $305.4M.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has awarded the CNMI $1.3 million for statement management costs arising from the catastrophic Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018, bringing to $305.4 million the total FEMA grants for typhoon recovery as of last Monday, July 31.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend that FEMA announced Monday the award of $1,327,307 for statement managements costs that include any indirect cost, direct administrative cost, or other administrative expense associated with Yutu recovery.

Sablan said the Disaster Recovery Reform Act caps funding for these costs at no more than 10% by a primary grant recipient, in this case the CNMI, and 5% by any subgrantees.

Sablan

As of Monday, July 31, FEMA's award to CNMI's State Management Costs now reaches $2,850,072.

Other FEMA grants for typhoon recovery include $80.4 million awarded to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.; $75.9 million awarded to Homeland Security/ Emergency Management; $56.7 million to the Public School System; $35.2 million to Northern Marianas College; $16.7 million o the Governor's Office; $13.1 million to the Tinian Municipality; $10.2 million to the Commonwealth Ports Authority' $5.7 million to other grant awards lesser than $1 million; $5.0 million to the Saipan Municipality/Department of Public Safety; $4.5 million for hazard mitigation assistance' $2.2 million to the CNMI Judiciary; and $1.3 million to Mount Carmel School.

This brings to a total of $305,485,248 in total FEMA grants for typhoon recovery as of last Monday, according to Sablan.

DOL sets PUA program email

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' Department of Labor would like to inform employers that the following address will be utilized for CNMI DOL's Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program to centralize all outgoing requests for, as well as to receive supporting documentation for PUA Program applicants that remain pending to date: pua.documents@dol.gov.mp

CNMI DOL would also like to remind the public that, in accordance with the applicable guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Labor – Employment and Training Administration, CNMI DOL will not be able to appropriately process pending benefits absent the applicable supporting documentation. Rather, CNMI DOL will adjudicate and/or audit the remainder of the claim based on what is readily available for adjudicators and/or auditors at the time in which the applicable deadline is met.

This new release shall also serve as a reminder that PUA and FPUC benefits are calculated on a weekly basis. Therefore, in some instances, documentation may be necessary for each week applied for, as well as receive multiple determinations for each of those weeks.

Applicants who do not agree with any determination are encouraged to fill out and submit a PUA Request for Reconsideration or Appeal Form.

1. File a Request for Reconsideration Form, with additional evidence to substantiate the week(s) denied.

Drop Off Location: Division of Employment Services (Bldg. 1334) or Office of the Secretary (Bldg. 1356)

2. The above mentioned form, along with additional information on the appeals process is available on www.marianaslabor.net under "Forms and Publications."

If you have questions, contact the following numbers:

■ Regarding Appeals: (670) 664-3290/1/2

■ Regarding Requests for Reconsideration: (670) 322-8870 or (670) 323-9994 ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: August 02, 2023 CLOSING DATE: August 17, 2023 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2023-014	Human Resources (HR) Manager/Executive Assistant	$40,000.00 - $45,000.00 per annum- UNGRADED

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications at the NMHC Central Office Reception in Garapan, Saipan or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net . NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

(This ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

HOUSING TRUST FUND (HTF) PROGRAM

The National Housing Trust Fund (HTF) is a new affordable housing production program that will complement existing Federal, state and local efforts to increase and preserve the supply of decent, safe, and sanitary affordable housing for extremely low-income and very low-income households, including homeless families. The HTF was established under Title I of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, Section 1338 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (Public Law 110-289) and made possible through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

For the aforementioned program years, NMHC is soliciting for proposals from non-profit or for-profit entities to utilize the PY 2021 and PY 2022 allocations, for the acquisition and/or rehabilitation of a housing unit to convert into a rental unit for a household with an area median income (AMI) of 30% or less.

The RFP packet is available on July 24, 2023, online at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the "Housing Trust Fund (HTF) Tab".

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 10, 2023, 10:00 am,** at the NMHC Main Office Conference Room located in Garapan, Saipan.

The proposals are due to NMHC on Friday, August 25, 2023, no later than 4:30 p.m.

Should you need any reasonable accommodations, please contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at (670)234-6866/9447.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)

Sablan reappointed to CEDA; Attao to NMTI

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has reappointed Michael S. Sablan and Catherine Marie Attao to the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority board of trustees and to the Northern Marianas Technical Institute board of trustees, respectively.

Sablan was re-nominated to serve on the CEDA board to represent Saipan and Northern Islands, while Attao was re-appointed to serve on the NMTI board to represent Saipan/women.

If confirmed by the Senate, Sablan will serve the remaining of a four-year term that will expire on Sept. 25, 2024.

If confirmed by the Senate, Attao will serve a four-year term. Because the terms of the board of trustee are staggered, her term will expire on March 11, 2027.

With respect to Sablan's re-appointment, Palacios told Senate president Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and Sablan last July 27 that he and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang are confident that Sablan will be an asset on the CEDA board.

In 2020, then-governor Ralph DLG. Torres appointed Sablan as a CEDA board member and as a member of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers.

Sablan's term as a CEDA member was supposed to expire on Sept. 25, 2024, but he resigned last Jan. 13 out of courtesy to the new Palacios-Apatang administration. He also resigned that same day as a GCEA member.

Sablan is a former CNMI's public auditor and is currently vice president of Triple J. Enterprises Inc.

Regarding Attao's re-appointment, Palacios told DeLeon Guerrero and Attao that he and Apatang are confident in her leadership to carry out the mandates of the board in the administration of the NMTI.

The governor said they are confident that Attao will continue to devote her time and efforts on this important NMTI board.

In December 2019, Torres appointed Attao to serve as a member of the NMTI board. In February 2020, the Senate confirmed Attao's nomination.

Attao is currently the vice president for Community Relations at TanHoldings Corp.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
NMHC IFB 2023-008

(This ad is paid by NMHC by HUD funds)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: September 07, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Route 206 Road and Drainage Improvement Project, Tinian

Project Package will be available on August 07, 2023, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office in Tinian located at the NMC Campus in Tinian on August 15, 2023, 10:00 a.m. In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during business hours, 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP23-ZONING/OPD-42300086

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 24, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"BLIGHTED BUILDING ASSESMENT AND REMEDIATION PLANNING"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPTIOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE TO THE COMMONWEALTH ZONING BOARD BY AUGUST 15, 2023 TO MR. YUBERT ALEPUYO VIA EMAIL AT y.alepuyo@dof.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ YUBERT ALEPUYO
ACTING ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

/S/ MARIANO IGLECIAS
ACTING DIRECTOR, OPD

EARTHQUAKE BRIEFS

4.7-magnitude quake in Inarajan

At 2:05PM on Aug. 5, 2023, a report of a 4.7-magnitude earthquake occurred in Inarajan, Guam. There were no reports of injuries or damages and no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

4.6-magnitude quake on Saipan

At 1:45am on Aug. 4 2023, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred 167 kilometers easet-southeast of Saipan. There were no reports of injuries or damages and no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. (PR)

4.6-magnitude quake in Marianas region

At 10:27am on July 29, 2023, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred in the Mariana Islands region. There were no reports of injuries or damages and no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

Major changes to SBA disaster lending program

» Agency increases home disaster loan limits, expands use of protective upgrades, extends initial payment deferment, waives interest for first year

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Small Business Administration administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman announced last week the agency finalized a rule to increase support to disaster survivors and small businesses needing relief following a federally declared disaster. The rule becomes effective for all disasters declared on or after July 31, 2023.

"The Biden-Harris Administration has prioritized maximizing resources for disaster survivors so that they can successfully recover and build resilience to the effects of climate change that have led to more frequent and costly natural disasters," said Guzman. "The SBA's disaster loan program rule modifications will ensure more flexible and affordable disaster loans are available for small businesses, nonprofits, renters, and homeowners that will allow them to focus on recovering quickly so their communities can survive and thrive again."

"For the first time in nearly 30 years, accounting for decades of inflation and rising construction costs, SBA is more than doubling the caps for its home disaster loan program. Increasing the loan limits ensures that communities across America have access to sufficient funding to help them rebuild homes, replace personal property, and reopen businesses when disasters strike," said Bailey DeVries, associate administrator for Investment and Innovation and acting associate administrator for Capital Access.

"SBA's bold new actions continue to reshape our disaster enterprise by unleashing more capital to help devastated communities rebuild and expanding avenues to mitigate against future damage in the face of increasingly frequent and catastrophic disasters," said Francisco Sánchez Jr., associate administrator of SBA's Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience. "While bringing the whole of SBA to the effort and inextricably tying recovery to resilience, SBA's team is also boosting its presence in the field to lead from the ground up and ensure we are meeting the priorities of each community."

The SBA is also expanding its mitigation assistance to other types of hazards beyond the declared disaster event. Communities are often under threat from multiple types of hazards, including hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, wildfires, earthquakes, and more. Last week's announcement will ensure that property owners can use their disaster loan funds to rebuild stronger and more resilient against multiple types of hazards and not just against a single threat.

In 2022, Guzman announced that SBA would waive the interest rate for the first year and extend the initial payment deferment period automatically to 12 months for disasters declared on or after Sept. 21, 2022, through Sept. 30, 2023. Last week's announcement makes this change permanent and means SBA will continue to provide much needed relief to disaster loan borrowers by waiving interest and payments for the first year for all disaster loans beyond Sept. 30, 2023.

Key changes being announced by the SBA include:

■ **Increase loan limits for primary residence**: $200,000 to $500,000 for real estate repair or replacement, contractor malfeasance, refinancing, and mitigation for home disaster loans.

■ **Increase loan limits for personal property**: $40,000 to $100,000 for replacement of clothing, furniture, appliances, automobiles, and more for home disaster loans.

■ **Remove administrative limit on landscaping**: Landscaping will be limited to the overall real estate repair limit and not capped at $5,000.

■ **Increase the initial payment deferral period**: Extending the first payment deferment period from 5 to 12 months for all disaster loans. This change removes the burden for disaster survivors to begin making payments on their disaster loans before communities rebuild and recover.

■ **No interest accrual for the first 12 months**: Waives interest accrual for the first year from the date of the initial disbursement for all disaster loans. This change ensures the payment deferral offers a true reprieve as all loans will not accrue interest during deferment. This change reduces the overall cost of the loan to better support full recovery for disaster survivors.

■ **Mitigation disaster loans**: Eliminates a restriction on property owners to only use disaster loan funds to mitigate a "similar" disaster event that caused damage to their home or business. This change gives property owners more options to mitigate future damage from different types of disasters, reducing the need for future financial assistance.

■ **Collateral requirements**: SBA is clarifying collateral requirements in the disaster loan program under which blanket liens on business assets that provide no liquidity in the event of default will not be required. This gives SBA more discretion to determine the collateral required for disaster loans.

■ **Reduce documents required to request reconsideration**: Removes the requirement that businesses submit financial statements with every reconsideration or appeal request for a previously declined application. Currently, SBA requires business loan applicants to provide current financial statements, even if their applications were not declined for lack of repayment ability.

■ **Expand eligibility to consumer or marketing cooperatives**: This change aligns disaster lending with SBA's 7(a) and 504 business loan programs and allows these cooperatives to apply for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan programs. ***(SBA)***

Some SPED records to be destroyed

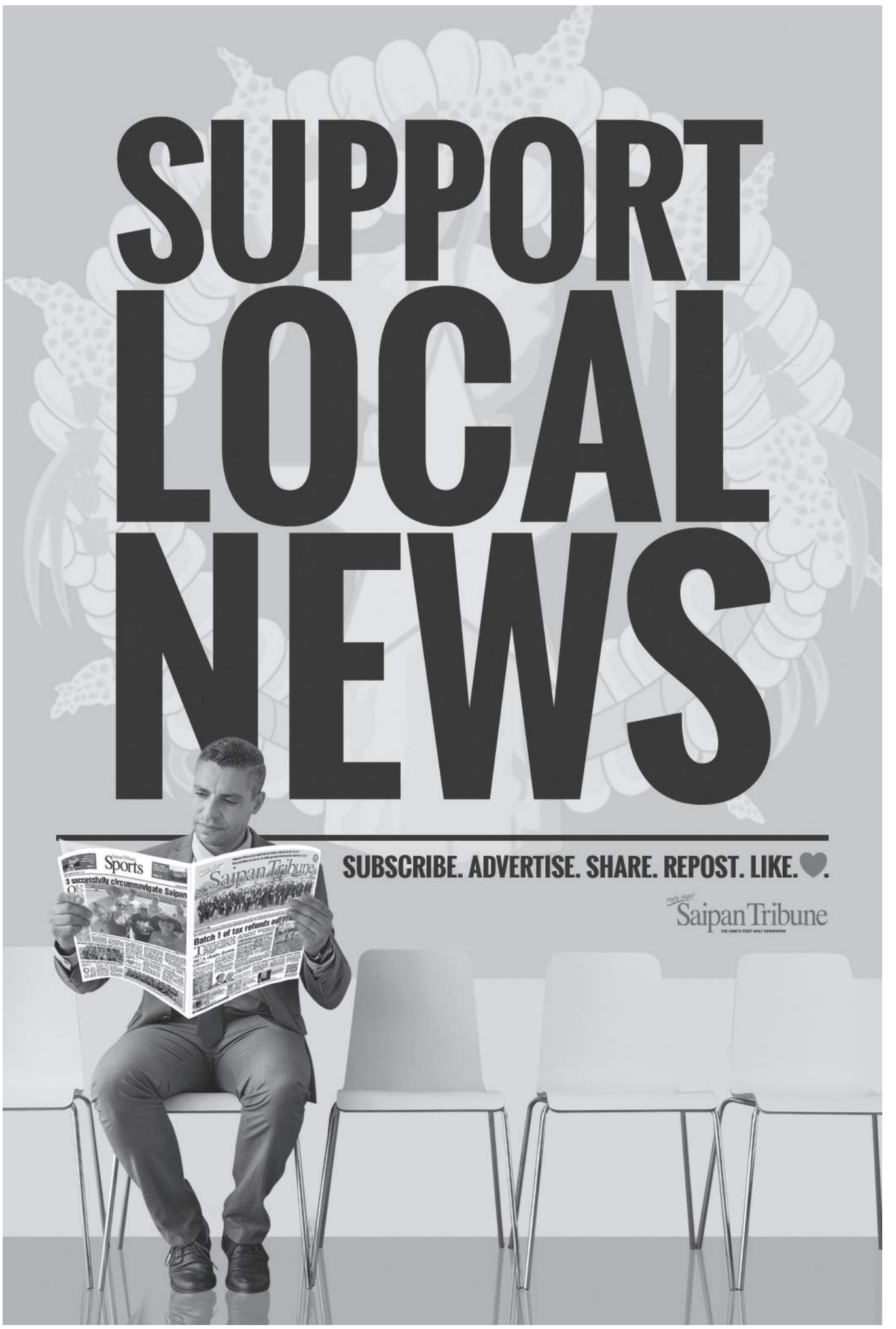
The Public School System's Special Education Program would like to inform parents and/or individuals who received special education services at the CNMI Public School System and who turned 25 years old between 1995 to 1997 that it no longer needs your records to provide educational services due to your exit from Special Education.

Be advised that the state level copies of your file will be destroyed 30 days from the date of this notice.

The IEP folder includes but is not limited to: IEPs, evaluations, eligibility documents, prior written notices, transition assessment. However, PSS will maintain an electronic copy of your name, age, disability and date the student exited the PSS without time limitation.

If you would like to pick up the file before it gets destroyed, visit the Special Education Program Office on Capital Hill, Building 1224. Our office hours are Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm except on holidays.

For any other information, contact the Special Education Program at 237-3029/3012/3021. ***(PR)***



Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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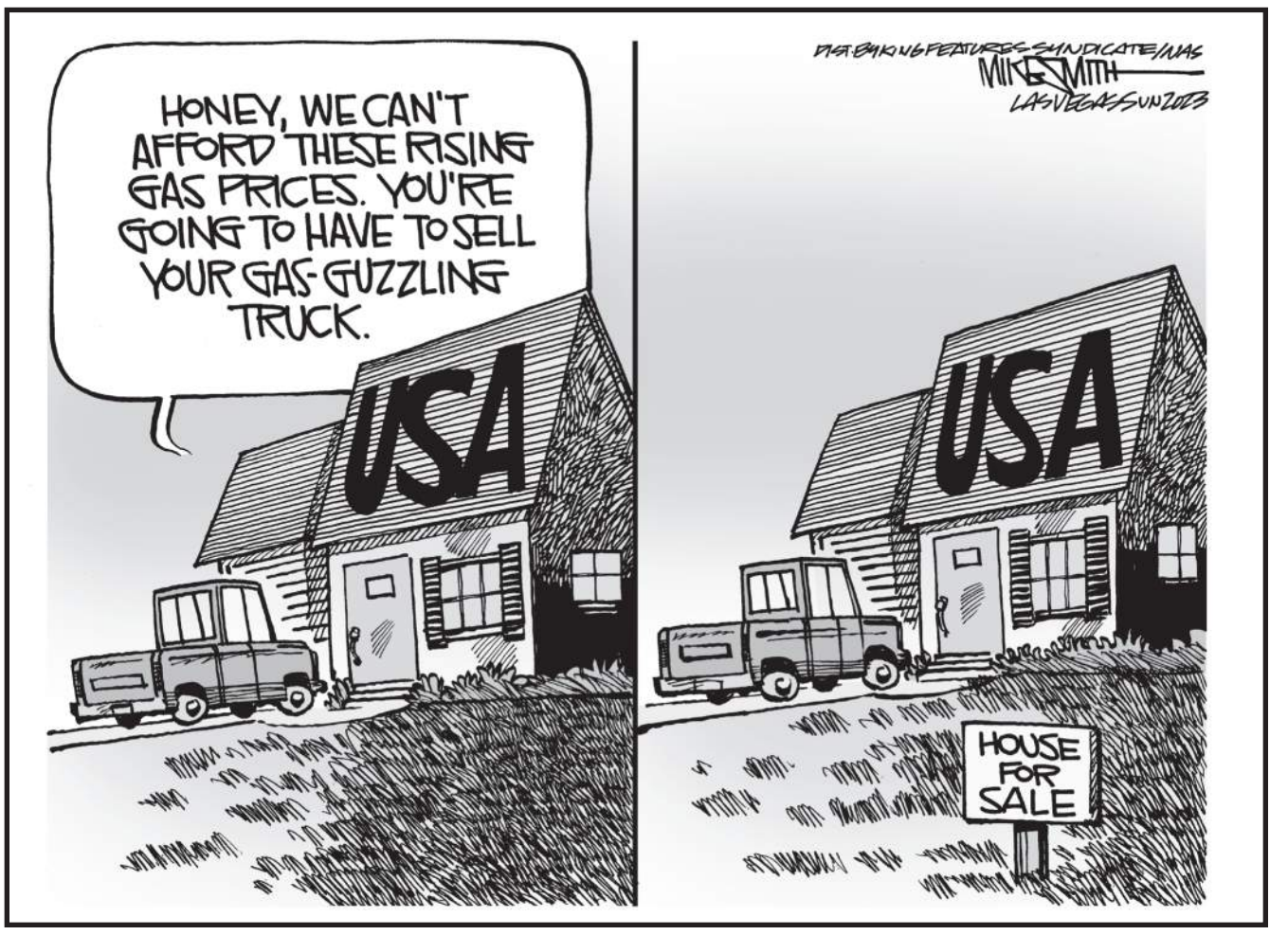
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association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LAS VEGAS SUN 2023

EDITORIAL

See no evil: GOP lawmakers don't believe in any venue to hold Trump accountable

At least 11 GOP senators who voted not to convict Donald Trump during his second impeachment trial in February 2021 referred to him as a "private citizen," claiming obliquely or explicitly that they didn't have the power or jurisdiction to convict a man who was no longer president of the grave offenses he openly committed against the country. Alabama's Richard Shelby's sentiments were common: "the Constitution speaks of removing a sitting president, not a private citizen."

This spineless cop-out, and the subsequent absence of a vote to bar Trump from ever holding public office, has left us in this position of having a fraudster who has taken the most concrete steps to terminate American democracy since the Civil War now a major-party front-runner again. Yet it also unwittingly made a separate case: if impeachment was not the proper place to convict a former president, then naturally a federal court, which has jurisdiction over offenses committed by non-presidents, is the proper venue, right?

There's no possible way that those same craven senators, who waved their awesome responsibility away, would be against Special Counsel Jack Smith, a federal prosecutor, now bringing charges—backed up by ample evidence already—that were approved by a grand jury and are slated to be heard in a federal courtroom before a jury, as the law calls for when it comes to private citizens? That's a rhetorical question, of course. They will obviously twist themselves into pretzels to claim that it's this process that's political, actually.

Wyoming's John Barrasso, the chair of the Senate Republican Conference, said back then that his no vote on impeachment was "consistent with my duty to the Constitution, I opposed this impeachment trial of a private citizen and former president." After Smith's indictment of Trump this week on charges related to the former president's efforts to overturn the 2020 election, Barrasso said the public "are uncomfortable watching the current president weaponize the justice system against his political opponent." So, you can't impeach and try private citizen Trump in the House and Senate, but he can't be tried in the federal courts either. It's almost like these officials believe that Trump should face no consequences by any means.

Like many of his colleagues, Barrasso also absurdly brought up a U.S. attorney's recent deal with Hunter Biden over charges of gun possession and tax evasion, which Republican lawmakers crowed was a Joe Biden-directed sweetheart deal (ignoring that it was reached by a Trump-appointed prosecutor) and which fell apart for technical reasons.

Among these was the unusual requirement, rejected by Delaware Federal Judge Maryellen Noreika (also a Trump appointee), that she be the one to oversee Hunter Biden's compliance with conditions the agreement set, a stipulation the defense pursued in part out of concern that a potentially reelected Trump would order his Justice Department to arrest his political rival's son whether or not he complied. If anything the deal spoke to

See GOP on Page 9

A dark drive of the soul

By PETER MEHLMAN
Los Angeles Times

Peter Mehlman's latest novel is #MeAsWell. *He was a writer and producer on* Seinfeld.

A golf course in Encino. A phone call.

It's my college roommate, from the East Coast. A friend has died.

"Oh, no."

"But you don't know how he died."

I'm still playing.

"He was murdered ... by his son."

"Oh my God."

Approaching the 15th green, I tell my golfing partner the news, then sink a 24-foot putt for par.

"If you'd gotten that call three hours ago, you'd have had your best round ever."

We laugh a lot.

It's the drive home that wrenches me toward the casual atrocity of American life and my numb reaction to it. Like most emigres to L.A., I thought I'd put a continent between me and bad news from the old country. Now, 34 years after my move, the continent is tailgating me on Hayvenhurst Avenue.

I pull over to a red zone and consider the math that doesn't add up: News of a murdered frat brother equals improved golf and big laughs?

This is not good. Sometime when I wasn't looking, blanket immunity to shock dulled my nervous system.

And so begins — depending on traffic — my 40-minute quest to relearn the ability to be appropriately sickened.

Turning onto Ventura, the idea arises that such pitilessness isn't just me. A 1982 Chrissie Hynde lyric comes to mind: "The phone, the TV and the news of the world / Got in the house like a pigeon from hell." Now it's 2023, when we're strung out on lockdowns, mass shootings, Proud Boys and the zillion et ceteras. Maybe disassociation is a symptom of nationwide survivor guilt?

It's a reassuring but unsatisfying thought, an alibi for a high school druggie, a version of "everyone's doing it." This needs to get personal.

My friend. He was a good guy. Funny. Rough around the edges but sensitive. We bonded over the Bronx, where my grandparents lived and where he grew up. I'd seen him just twice since 1979 and got one call from him in the '90s, re: estate planning. "Sorry. Already got a guy. No, I love living in L.A. Good hearing your voice, man."

East of Haskell, I estimate that at the time of that call, his son — now sitting in a jail cell — would have been in grade school.

My mind instantly derails into a screenplay plot. Let's say an accidental overdose of L.A. tap water empowers me with supernatural powers to see the future, leading to a second act of increasingly desperate attempts to save an old friend's life. Wow, a less futuristic "Minority Report"!

I'd write it if not for the Writers Guild of America strike. I really should picket tomorrow. They say the Netflix picket line is tons of fun—

Wait. What?

This is scary, like my brain has developed hands-free emotional avoidance. Even scarier: I realize it's nothing new.

Nearing Sepulveda, I consider the desensitizing impact of having had a Hollywood comedy writing career. I flash to 1997 when "woke" was just a verb and no joke was "too soon." In (maybe) the darkest ever "Seinfeld" moment — the hospital scene in which Susan is pronounced dead from licking toxic wedding invitation envelopes bought on the cheap by her fiancé, George Costanza — George feigns grief and then says to Jerry, Elaine and Kramer: "Well, let's get some coffee."

I loved that scene so much. It made me proud to be part of the show. Now, passing the Skirball Cultural Center, I wonder if that was the first symptom of an emotional intake-valve shutdown.

No. A few years earlier, in the wake of Rodney King, the Northridge quake and O.J., I'd joked: "People say they wouldn't move to L.A. because they'd miss the change of seasons. But L.A. has four seasons: Fire season, earthquake season, riot season and pilot season."

You might think I'm about to pin some blame on Los Angeles for my unfeeling state, but I'm not. Turning onto Sunset, I don't want to blame anyone or anything, especially not this great city. When "How did I get this way?" turns to "Whose fault?" all is lost.

Stopped in another red zone, I Google my friend. The horrific news pops right up. Shot twice in the head, once in the chest, once in the abdomen.

As a hobbyist comedian, I do a joke about a man who "died peacefully in his sleep after being shot four times in the head and twice in the chest." There should be a restraining order on how close comedy can hit home.

But this is all about hitting home. I need this to hit home.

Over speed bumps on Amalfi, I think back to 1975 and my friend throwing incredibly long Frisbee passes on Fraternity Row. How he tied my tie for the spring formal. How he laughed like a car with dual exhaust pipes.

Turning onto my street, I go where I really don't want to go: imagining him holding his infant son in the delivery room, the farthest thing from his mind being, "Someday, this gurgling little boy will ..."

Home.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

It's getting too hot for airplanes

By MARK GONGLOFF
Bloomberg Opinion

Mark Gongloff is a Bloomberg Opinion *editor and columnist covering climate change. A former managing editor of Fortune.com, he ran the* HuffPost's *business and technology coverage and was a reporter and editor for the* Wall Street Journal.

Lest you think air travel couldn't possibly get more miserable, climate change is here to prove you wrong.

Just as extreme heat makes people sluggish and unproductive at best, and threatens human life at worst, it also makes flying airplanes much more difficult. Hot air is less dense than cold air, its molecules zipping around at higher speeds, meaning planes have less lift when the mercury rises. That makes it harder for them to take off and stay aloft.

Airlines and pilots will often choose to delay flights or unload passengers and luggage to shed weight from planes when the temperature climbs too high. This leads to cascading schedule disruptions across the entire system, along with passengers occasionally being trapped for hours on runways inside roasting aircraft.

It's a problem that will only get worse as the planet warms and extreme heat of the sort blanketing the southern US this summer becomes more routine. Up to 30% of all US flights, on average, may be subject to weight restrictions during periods of high heat by mid-century, according to a 2017 Columbia University study. And barring a miraculous technological breakthrough, the aerospace industry has no real solution to overcome the harsh laws of physics.

"This is a physical restriction related to air density, and there are not a whole lot of direct technological fixes for it," said Ethan Coffel, an assistant professor at Syracuse University, who was an author of the 2017 study.

Most of us probably think of snow and ice as the biggest threat to on-time flights, but heat causes far more delays, Bloomberg News reported recently. Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, for example, suffered roughly twice as many weather delays in the summer of 2022 than it did last winter.

The high-heat problem is especially hard to overcome for airports with short runways, which give planes less room to gain the momentum they need to take off. New York's LaGuardia Airport has a particularly short runway and no space to expand, constrained as it is by Flushing Bay and dense Queens neighborhoods.

Unfortunately for America's mental health, LaGuardia is also what the Federal Aviation Administration calls a "pacing airport," or, as I see it, one that:

- has a high volume of traffic;
- is routinely unable to handle that volume of traffic; and
- ruins air schedules around the country as a result

"Scheduling is a disaster every day as it is," said independent aviation consultant Robert Mann, "and heat just makes it worse."

Airports at high altitudes, such as Denver, are also uniquely vulnerable to high heat, as are the ever-warming cities of the Sun Belt. Surprisingly, the hottest of those cities, Phoenix, suffers relatively few weight-restriction days thanks to its longer-than-usual runways, which are also made of specially reinforced concrete. Of course, not every airport can afford the expense and delay of tearing up old runways and building new, stronger ones. And cancellations still happen, even in Phoenix. Workers on sun-baked taxiways and runways—which are usually much hotter than the atmosphere around the airport—are also especially vulnerable to the "heat island" effect. Workers in extreme conditions will need longer breaks or risk falling ill and causing airports to be short-staffed.

Aerospace manufacturers are always working on ways to make planes lighter and more efficient, but most of that progress has already been made. Barring revolutionary new materials, any further gains will be incremental at best. So until we figure out how to make airplanes out of gossamer, we'll have to rely on old-fashioned solutions to heat: moving flights to cooler times, lengthening and strengthening runways and ditching weight.

The net effect is that flight delays will probably keep rising, adding to climate change's growing impact on air travel. It's already making turbulence more dangerous, lengthening flights because of changing wind patterns, and fueling the extreme weather that leads to more delays. As with every other effect of rising heat, the most effective solution would be to stop burning the fossil fuels that contribute to warming—including the fuels burned by airplanes. Air travel isn't much fun these days anyway.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Accountability for CEDA

CEDA has been operating for over two decades and to my knowledge we the have never been given a genuine accounting of CEDA, as we have invested tens of millions in CEDA since it's conception. I am often approached to inquire or write something about CEDA and I've had many conversations with citizens about it and "what has CEDA done" and the most common response has been "CEDA only knows how to take people's land."

Given that virtually nothing has been in the news about CEDA's productivity with development projects, my concerns and the concerns of other citizens is why I served CEDA with an Open Government Act request for their raw data on loans they made since 2003, which is the right of every citizen to know what CEDA or any government entity has been doing.

As its title obviously tells us, what the Commonwealth Development Authority should be doing is "developing our economic engine in collaboration with the government's efforts," while the Marianas Visitors Authority is meant to help the government in providing the actual fuel for our economic engine (tourists). Mr. Conception was right about the importance of MVA that provides most of the "fuel" (tourists) for our engine. I view CEDA and MVA as an ideal methodology for the CNMI to thrive economically, but the problem is our economic engine has never really been running at full power and even missing, as some of our engine's new cylinders are not even firing now, like the casino, the cannabis industry, the hemp industry that is still on the shelf and I could go on with more examples.

I'm not putting our entire economy on CEDA but if CEDA was doing a genuine productive job of developing our economy, it wouldn't look so bad now; it's really that obvious and simple.

CDA even changed their name to add "economic" to their title and even hired an economist from what I understand. But we have yet to hear about any form of economic development plan, programs, nor a strategy for economic growth from CEDA's economist. Based on my on observations and the public consensus that I got about CEDA, it truly appears that CEDA may have become more of a "property management company" from the land and properties they reprocessed than a leader in our economic development. When was the last "audit" of CEDA, as that kind of information is something every citizen and even the governor needs to know?

Someone must try to hold CEDA accountable and they can't lie, as my request is on record with the Commonwealth Recorder's Office; the governor and/or the Legislature may even want to confirm what I find with the request, especially if it's not good. I have seen it too often when something is just left alone to be squandered, as there is virtually no accountability on CEDA. Just think, CEDA has been doing what they wanted to do without telling us anything and real "oversight" by our government, which is the danger in having autonomous agencies.

Personally, I think CEDA might need to be "dissolved." The government can take the staff at CEDA and do a better job with a simple economic task force and our banks are more than capable of handling the loans that CEDA would do. In fact, I think the banks will do a better job at loaning money, given the horrific way they handled my loan, refusing to liquidate after I had a heart attack and cancer, letting interest pile up. But if I'm wrong about CEDA—and I could be, as I may have missed something CEDA has done—I will be the first to apologize. But I'm very confident that my request will inform people on the actual productivity of CEDA.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman III, Saipan

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Oppenheimer: The movie

I watched the movie *Oppenheimer* at the Regal Theater on Saipan this week. The movie is a beautiful visual experience that movie buffs will appreciate. It is a biography of Dr. Robert Oppenheimer, probably based on the excellent book *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer,* 2006, by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin.

The movie is not about the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These two historic events are only mentioned in passing after the excellent coverage of the Trinity Test, July 16, 1945, the dramatic explosion of the first plutonium-based, implosion-type bomb at Alamogordo, New Mexico. Tinian Island is never mentioned. After the Trinity Test, Gen. Leslie Groves, commander, Manhattan Project, no longer needed Oppenheimer. All decisions about the use of the bomb were made by President Truman, and Secretary of War Stimson. Those who have read *Tinian and The Bomb* will know that many decisions were made on Tinian during the combat use of the bombs.

The movie does mention the atomic bombings several times, but only in relation to the investigation of Oppenheimer's communist leanings after Sen. Joseph McCarthy began his hunt for "commie spies" in America. McCarthy, R-Wisconsin served in the U.S. Congress from 1947 until his death in 1957, during which time Cold War tensions fueled fears of widespread communist subversion in America and McCarthy played upon those fears to gain notoriety.

I know from personal experience how strong American feelings were on the subject, and the people's fear of McCarthyism, even years afterwards. In my junior year of high school in Salt Lake City (1964), I wrote an essay entitled "Argu," about the cornucopia of people who comprise the American public and how some were working to stop all the senseless arguing over political issues and learn how to get along. I left it on the kitchen counter and Dad found it. When I got home, he scolded me soundly, telling me that this kind of writing could be used against me by the McCarthyites, just as they had tortured Oppenheimer and so many other creative Americans.

Bottom line is, the movie *Oppenheimer* is well worth watching, as it amply depicts what McCarthyism did to an American hero, as well as its great videography. The movie well-depicts how Oppenheimer struggled with the results of his work: As soon as he realized that a bomb could be created, he was overcome with the thought of killing thousands of people in one blast, yet he drove forward with the project to its successful conclusion.

Those who want to get the most out of the move would do well to order a copy of *American Prometheus* online and read it before watching the movie. Reading *Tinian and The Bomb* would also be helpful.

Don A. Farrell
Marpo Heights, Tinian

GOP

From page 8

concerns over Trump's, not Biden's, weaponization of the Justice Department.

Not that any of these facts actually matter. A controlling subset of the GOP now exists in thrall to Trump, and to point out their increasingly strained rationalizations and hypocrisy is to miss the point. They know, and they don't care.

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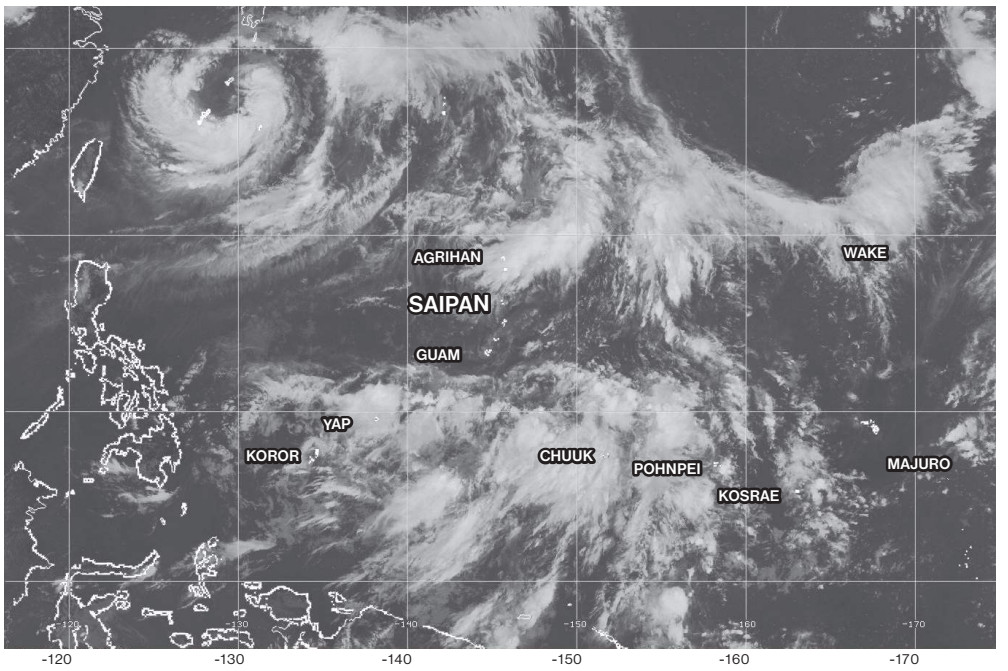
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Cloudy	Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Cloudy	Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Cloudy
87º / 80º	85º / 78º	86º / 79º	86º / 79º	87º / 79º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:25 AM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite indicating partly cloudy skies with spotty showers this morning, mainly over the eastern waters. Ipan buoy and altimetry showing seas of 2 to 4 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Yap	Isolated Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Tuesday	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Wednesday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:06 AM	11:05 PM
Tuesday	-	12:02 PM	11:47 PM
Wednesday	-	12:57 PM	-
Thursday	12:31 AM	1:53 PM	-
Friday	1:19 AM	2:49 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 52°
Beijing	Showers	90° / 73°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	91° / 82°
Honolulu	Showers	88° / 78°
London	Partly Cloudy	79° / 61°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	82° / 67°
Manila	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
New York	Thunderstorms	86° / 74°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	97° / 81°
Paris	Showers	79° / 61°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	88° / 79°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	93° / 73°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	90° / 72°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	62° / 54°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	91° / 75°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	93° / 79°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	92° / 72°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:21 AM	Low Tide	0.66
12:04 PM	High Tide	1.78
6:09 PM	Low Tide	0.77
-	-	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR 111	6:55AM	8:55AM	2, 6
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	Daily
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
TW9308	4:55AM	8:45AM	1, 5
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7
PR110	11:30PM	5:25AM+1	1, 5
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
TW9307	10:00PM	3:45AM+1	4, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Fewer Americans got jobs in July than expected

» But steady market suggests US may avoid recession

AP

Driver Jose Viveros delivers beverages in the Little Tokyo district of Los Angeles, Thursday, July 27, 2023.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The job market has cooled over the summer. But it's still strong enough to defy predictions that higher interest rates would tip the United States into recession.

U.S. employers added 187,000 jobs last month, fewer than expected. But the unemployment rate dipped to 3.5% in a sign that the job market remains resilient.

Hiring was up from 185,000 in June, a figure that the Labor Department revised down from an originally reported 209,000. Economists had expected to see 200,000 new jobs in July.

Still last month's hiring was solid, considering that the Federal Reserve has raised its benchmark interest 11 times since March 2022. And the Fed's inflation fighters will welcome news that more Americans entered the job market last month, easing pressure on employers to raise wages to attract and keep staff.

"This is a good strong report," said Julia Pollak, chief economist at the jobs website ZipRecruiter. "The worst fears that people had of a painful downturn, a loss of jobs, longer unemployment durations, all those things — those are not coming to pass."

Unemployment fell to a notch above a half century low as 152,000 Americans entered the job force. The number of unemployed fell by 116,000.

Despite the influx of workers, average hourly wages rose 0.4% from June and 4.4% from a year earlier – numbers that were hotter than expected and are likely to worry the Fed.

The Labor Department revised payroll figures down for both May and June, reducing the number of jobs created in those months by 49,000. With the revisions, June and July were "the two weakest monthly gains in two-and-a-half years," noted Paul Ashworth, chief North America economist at Capital Economics.

In July, health care companies added 63,000 jobs. But temporary help jobs – often seen as a sign of where the job market is headed – fell by 22,000. And factories cut 2,000 jobs.

Eugene Lupario, who owns the SVS Group staffing firm in Oakland, California, is seeing signs of a labor market slowdown – though certain businesses, such as restaurants and bars, are still hiring aggressively. "Interest rates have had an impact," he said. Banks and home lenders have been hit hard by higher borrowing costs and aren't looking for much help. "They're not getting new loans. They're not getting refis," Lupario said. "Because rates are where they are, nobody's going out there and buying first or second homes right now."

And he said that some of the pandemic hiring frenzy has receded. "During COVID, a nurse, an RN, could ask for and get $100 an hour," Lupario said. But hospitals are "not paying $100 an hour anymore. They're paying pre-COVID rates at $75 to $85 an hour. Those same nurses that were making 100 bucks an hour are sitting on the sidelines maybe waiting for somebody to offer them $100 an hour, not realizing that they're probably not going to get it."

The U.S. economy and job market have repeatedly confounded predictions of an impending recession. Increasingly, economists are expressing confidence that inflation fighters at the Federal Reserve can pull off a rare "soft landing" – raising interest rates just enough to rein in rising prices without tipping the world's largest economy into recession. Consumers are feeling sunnier too: The Conference Board, a business research group, said that its consumer confidence index last month hit the highest level in two years.

"These numbers," acting Labor Secretary Julie Su said after the jobs report came out, "are inconsistent with recession."

Heat and wildfires put southern Europe's vital tourism earnings at risk

RHODES, Greece (AP)—Tourists at a seaside hotel on the Greek island of Rhodes snatched up pails of pool water and damp towels as flames approached, rushing to help staffers and locals extinguish one of the wildfires threatening Mediterranean locales during recent heat waves.

The quick team effort meant that "by the time the fire brigade came, most of the fire actually was dealt with," said Elena Korosteleva from Britain, who was vacationing at the Lindos Memories hotel.

The next morning, some unsettled guests cut their holiday short—but most stayed on as the resort wasn't damaged in the small brush fire outside its grounds.

The Greek island known for sparkling beaches and ancient sites is nursing its wounds after 11 days of devastating wildfires in July. After thousands of people were evacuated during the height of travel season, Rhodes is weighing how the crisis will affect its vital tourism sector, which fuels most of its economy and some 20% of Greece's.

It's the same for other Mediterranean destinations, like Italy and Spain, where the tourism sector also is being hit by heat waves and wildfires. Greece, Italy, Algeria and Tunisia combined lost more than 1,350 square kilometers (520 square miles) to blazes that affected 120,000 people in late July, according to European Union estimates. And Greece is expecting even more extreme heat in the coming days.

The mayor of Villardeciervos village, in part of northwestern Spain ravaged by fires last summer, said hikers are still coming.

"Tourism is bound to suffer a bit in the next few years, (whether) we like it or not," Rosa María López said. "On the hiking trails, there are no trees, and it is very sad to see. … But this area is still highly valued by tourists in spite of everything. We will have to adapt."

Fires have chased away tourists in hard-hit parts of Greece and Italy. Rhodes saw mass cancellations of flights and the trend is similar in Sicily, said Olivier Ponti, vice president of insights at ForwardKeys, a travel data company with access to airline industry ticketing data.

While travel to Greece overall has not been hit too hard, Italy isn't as lucky. Wildfires "have caused a slowdown in bookings for many Italian destinations, even places not close to the fires," he said, noting a drop for Rome in the last week of July.

Even without the flames, summer heat intensified by climate change can be a turn-off for travelers.

Hoteliers are worried in southeastern Spain's coastal resort city of Benidorm, a long-time favorite for British and Scandinavian tourists.

"If heat waves were to be repeated every summer, the impact on our economy would be significant," said Antonio Mayor, chair of the hotel and tourism association in the Valencia region, which includes Benidorm. "Our activity is centered on the three summer months."

That could mean tourists head north to Scandinavian countries or the United Kingdom instead.

"Record-setting temperatures in European countries such as Greece, Italy and Spain are not scheduled to ease up as we enter August, so it might be considered a much safer option to opt for a stay in northern Europe," said Tim Hentschel, CEO of digital booking platform HotelPlanner.

The World Meteorological Organization and the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service calculated July to be the hottest month on record. Heat records foreshadow changes ahead as the planet warms, scientists say, including more flooding, longer-burning wildfires and extreme weather events that put people at risk.

A cyberattack has disrupted hospitals and health care in several states

MANCHESTER, Conn. (AP)—Hospitals and clinics in several states on Friday began the time-consuming process of recovering from a cyberattack that disrupted their computer systems, forcing some emergency rooms to shut down and ambulances to be diverted.

Many primary care services at facilities run by Prospect Medical Holdings remained closed on Friday as security experts worked to determine the extent of the problem and resolve it.

John Riggi, the American Hospital Association's national advisory for cybersecurity and risk, said the recovery process can often take weeks, with hospitals in the meantime reverting to paper systems and humans to do things such as monitor equipment and run records between departments.

"These are threat-to-life crimes, which risk not only the safety of the patients within the hospital, but also risk the safety of the entire community that depends on the availability of that emergency department to be there," Riggi said.

The latest "data security incident" began Thursday at facilities operated by Prospect, which is based in California and has hospitals and clinics there and in Texas, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania.

"Upon learning of this, we took our systems offline to protect them and launched an investigation with the help of third-party cybersecurity specialists," the company said in a statement Friday. "While our investigation continues, we are focused on addressing the pressing needs of our patients as we work diligently to return to normal operations as quickly as possible."

The White House has been monitoring the cyberattack, said Adrienne Watson, a spokesperson for the National Security Council.

Watson also said in a statement that "the Department of Health and Human Services has been in contact with the company to offer federal assistance, and we are ready to provide support as needed to prevent any disruption to patient care as a result of this incident."

In Connecticut, the emergency departments at Manchester Memorial and Rockville General hospital were closed for much of Thursday and patients were diverted to other nearby medical centers.

"We have a national Prospect team working and evaluating the impact of the attack on all of the organizations," Jillian Menzel, chief operating officer for the Eastern Connecticut Health Network, said in a statement.

The FBI in Connecticut issued a statement saying it is working with "law enforcement partners and the victim entities" but could not comment further on an ongoing investigation.

Nation

Biden bets that repeating himself is smart politics

AP

President Joe Biden gestures as he speaks to a person as he leaves St. Joseph on the Brandywine Catholic Church in Wilmington, Del., Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023, after attending Mass.

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Joe Biden has his zingers ("This is not your father's Republican Party"). He's got patriotism ("This is the United States of America, dammit"). He's got a geometry-based explanation on how to grow the economy ("from the middle out and the bottom up").

Move over, Beyonce and Taylor Swift. Biden has his own greatest hits, and he's keeping them on repeat.

If you've heard one of the Democratic president's recent speeches, you've basically heard them all — and you're sure to keep hearing the same refrains in the year-plus leading up to Election Day 2024. People in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah will get to sample the playlist starting Tuesday, when Biden makes a three-day swing through the Southwest.

Biden knows where the country is in the arc of history ("at an inflection point"). He knows what the middle class needs ("a little bit of breathing room"). Did you know his wife, Jill, is from Philadelphia? Yep, he "married a Philly girl" and will be "sleeping alone" if he fails to root for Philadelphia sports teams.

The repetition is a strategic choice — one with a scientific basis in a society that is loaded with distractions. People need to see his TV ads and speeches dozens of times before they truly absorb them, his campaign believes. The president has built a multi-decade political career on repeating the same stories to explain the principles behind his policies.

"That's communications 101 — developing a compelling message and repeating it again and again," said White House communications director Ben LaBolt, who noted that marketing has a "rule of seven" in which a customer generally needs to see a message at least seven times before making a purchase.

LaBolt noted that most voters are busy taking their kids to soccer, making breakfast or commuting to their jobs. "They're not consuming news like they're sitting in the White House briefing room — you have to repeat a message over time so that people remember it," he said, noting that this has become increasingly the case in a fractured media environment.

The president has staked his reelection on convincing a wary public that the economy is rock solid because of his policies.

That means Biden is putting his economic pitch on repeat, hoping to break through the daily clutter by delivering his message often enough that voters will recall it and accept it as truth. The White House thinking is that voters will turn out for him if they know that their new bridge, new factory or tax break for an electric vehicle came from his legislative accomplishments.

He's even repeated in speeches the importance of repetition.

"We got to let people know what we've done and how we've done it and why we did it," he recently told donors in Chicago after delivering a speech about "Bidenomics" — a term he has used at least 39 times during the past month in public remarks.

Philly girl Jill Biden has her own estimates for how often her husband deploys one of his other favorite phrases about the economy.

Justice Dept. faces biggest test in history with election conspiracy case vs Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)— When the Justice Department was announcing the highest-profile prosecution in its history in Washington, Attorney General Merrick Garland was 100 miles away, meeting with local police in Philadelphia.

He stepped outside briefly to speak about how the decision to indict Donald Trump for conspiracy to overturn the 2020 election came from career prosecutors and was led by a special counsel committed to "accountability and independence."

In other words, this wasn't about politics.

Try as Garland might, though, there is no escaping the politics of the moment when the Justice Department of a president who is running for reelection is indicting his chief political rival, the front-runner for the Republican nomination.

And though he has distanced himself from the investigation since he appointed special counsel Jack Smith 10 months ago, Garland has the last word on matters related to the prosecution of Trump as long as he is the attorney general.

The Justice Department is facing its biggest test in history — navigating unprecedented conditions in American democracy while trying to fight back against relentless attacks on its own credibility and that of the U.S. election system. The success or failure of the case has the potential to affect the standing of the department for years to come.

"In grand terms this is a really huge historic moment for the Department of Justice," said Wendy Weiser, vice president for the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice.

President Joe Biden has sought to distance himself from the Justice Department to avoid any appearance of meddling when the agency is not only probing Trump, but also the president's son Hunter. But it's going to get more challenging for Biden, too. Anything he says about the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the Capitol from now on could complicate matters for prosecutors. And any trial is likely to take place against the backdrop of the 2024 presidential election.

The latest indictment is the third criminal case filed against Trump this year, but the first to try to hold him criminally responsible for his efforts to cling to power in the weeks between his election loss and the Capitol attack that stunned the world. He pleaded not guilty on Thursday before a federal magistrate judge and was ordered not to speak about the case with any potential witnesses.

Trump has said he did nothing wrong and has accused Smith of trying to thwart his chances of returning to the White House in 2024. Trump and other Republicans have railed against the investigation and the Justice Department in general, claiming a two-tiered system of justice that vilifies Trump and goes easy on Biden's son, who was accused of tax crimes after a yearslong probe.

"Another dark day in America as Joe Biden continues to weaponize his corrupt Department of Justice against his leading political opponent Donald J. Trump," said U.S. Rep Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y.

Shots again fired at site of Parkland school massacre in reenactment after lawmakers visit

PARKLAND, Fla. (AP)— Gunfire erupted again at Parkland's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Friday as part of a reenactment by ballistics experts of the 2018 massacre that left 14 students and three staff members dead.

Two shots were heard by reporters sitting about 200 yards (180 meters) from the building about noon and then two more about an hour later. A few hours later, the fire alarm went off, just like it did during the Valentine's Day 2018 attack, but no shots were heard underneath it. During the massacre, 139 shots were fired.

The reenactment is part of a lawsuit by the victims' families and the wounded that accuses the Broward County deputy assigned to the school, Scot Peterson, of failing in his duty to protect them and their loved ones. Peterson, who was acquitted at a criminal trial in June, has said that because of echoes he could not pinpoint the shooter's location.

David Brill, the attorney overseeing the reenactment on behalf of the families, did not return a call from The Associated Press seeking comment Friday. He told the South Florida Sun-Sentinel that 49 rounds were fired Friday and that the test showed Peterson would have heard the shots and known their location.

The reenactment began shortly after nine members of Congress toured the blood-stained and bullet-pocked halls of the three-story classroom building where Nikolas Cruz carried out his six-minute attack. The building has been kept standing behind a locked chain-link fence to serve as evidence during Cruz's trial last year.

The shooting sparked a nationwide movement for gun control and traumatized the South Florida community. Cruz, a 24-year-old former Stoneman Douglas student, pleaded guilty in 2021 and was sentenced to life in prison.

The experts were firing with an AR-15-style semiautomatic rifle identical to the one Cruz used, and the bullets were to be caught by a safety device.

Peterson got within feet of the building's door and drew his gun, but backed away and stood next to an adjoining building for 40 minutes, making radio calls. He has said he would have charged into the building if he had known the shooter's location.

Families of the victims who filed the lawsuit contend Peterson knew Cruz's location, but retreated out of cowardice.

Peterson, 60, was the first U.S. law enforcement officer ever tried criminally for conduct during an on-campus shooting.

The burden of proof is lower in the civil lawsuit, however. Circuit Judge Carol-Lisa Phillips allowed the reenactment, but made clear she was not ruling on whether the recording will be played at trial. That will have to be argued later, she said. It is likely Peterson's attorneys will oppose the attempt.

Asia

Hiroshima mayor calls nuclear deterrence 'folly'

» As city marks 78th anniversary of atomic bombing

TOKYO (AP)—Hiroshima officials criticized growing support for nuclear weapons as a detterent resulting from uneasiness over Russia's war in Ukraine and tensions in the Koreas, commenting Sunday as the city remembered the atomic bombing of 78 years ago.

The observance came two months after Hiroshima hosted a summit of the Group of 7 major industrial nations, at which G7 leaders visited the city's peace park and a museum dedicated to those who died in the word's first atomic attack.

The leaders issued a joint statement calling for the continued non-use of nuclear weapons, but they also justified having such arms to "serve defensive purposes, deter aggression and prevent war and coercion."

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui rejected that position in his peace address at the commemoration.

"Leaders around the world must confront the reality that nuclear threats now being voiced by certain policymakers reveal the folly of nuclear deterrence theory," he said. "They must immediately take concrete steps to lead us from the dangerous present toward our ideal world."

Hiroshima Gov. Hidehiko Yuzai questioned the growing calls for reinforced nuclear deterrence around the world, including in Japan, since Russia invaded Ukraine and warned of possible nuclear weapons use, while North Korea advances its missile and nuclear development.

"Believers of proactive nuclear deterrence, who say nuclear weapons are indispensable to maintain peace, are only delaying the progress toward nuclear disarmament," Yuzai said.

The atomic bomb dropped by the United States on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, destroyed the city, killing 140,000 people, and a second bomb dropped three days later on Nagasaki killed an additional 70,000. Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, ending World War II and Japan's nearly half century of aggression in Asia.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who represents Hiroshima in parliament, has sought to highlight the G7 commitment to nuclear disarmament and a condemnation of Russia's threats to use atomic weapons. But he has been faulted by survivors for refusing to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapon.

Arguing the pact is unworkable because no nuclear-armed state has signed, Kishida has pledged to serve as a bridge between nuclear and non-nuclear states and work for nuclear disarmament. His critics say it is a hollow promise because Japan relies on the U.S. nuclear umbrella for protection and has been rapidly expanding its military.

Japan, the United States and South Korea are stepping up security cooperation in response to a more assertive China and the growing nuclear and missile threats from North Korea. Washington and Seoul have agreed to strengthen their nuclear deterrence cooperation, and Japan also wants stronger protection by U.S. nuclear weapons.

Kishida, who also attended Sunday's ceremony, said the path toward a nuclear-free world has grown tougher because of rising tensions and conflicts. "But the situation makes it even more important for the world to regain the momentum," he said.

People at the ceremony observed a moment of silence with the sound of a peace bell at 8:15 a.m., the time when a U.S. B-29 dropped the bomb on the city. Hundreds of white doves, considered symbols of peace, were released.

ASIAN BRIEFS

N. Korean leader tours weapons factories and vows to boost war readiness

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un toured the country's key weapons factories, including those producing artillery systems and launch vehicles for nuclear-capable ballistic missiles, and pledged to speed up efforts to advance his military's arms and war readiness, state media said Sunday. Kim's three-day inspections through Saturday came as the United States and South Korea prepared for their next round of combined military exercises planned for later this month to cope with the growing North Korean threat. Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest level in years as the pace of North Korea's missile tests and the joint U.S.-South Korea military drills, which Kim portrays as invasion rehearsals, have both intensified in a tit-for-tat cycle.

PH military condemns Chinese coast guard's use of water cannon on its boat

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine military on Sunday condemned a Chinese coast guard ship's "excessive and offensive" use of a water cannon to block a Filipino supply boat from delivering new troops, food, water and fuel to a Philippine-occupied shoal in the disputed South China Sea. The tense confrontation on Saturday at the Second Thomas Shoal was the latest flare-up in the long-seething territorial conflicts involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei. The disputes in the South China Sea, one of the world's busiest sea lanes, have long been regarded as an Asian flashpoint and a delicate fault line in the rivalry between the United States and China in the region. Philippine navy personnel on board two chartered supply boats were cruising toward Second Thomas, escorted by Philippine coast guard ships, when a Chinese coast guard ship approached and used a powerful water cannon to block the Filipinos from the shoal that China also claims, according to Philippine military and coast guard officials.

More people go missing; thousands evacuated as northeast China hit by more floods

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Rain continued to pelt northeastern China in the wake of Typhoon Doksuri on Saturday, as authorities reported more fatalities and missing people while evacuating thousands more. Six people died and four went missing in the city of Shulan in Jilin province, which has seen five straight days of rainfall, according to state media. Over 18,900 people were evacuated from the city of more than 700,000, according to the local disaster relief agency. State news agency China News Service showed images of waterlogged streets around homes and factories. The average precipitation in the city had reached 111.7 mm (4.4 inches) by Friday afternoon. China is struggling with record-breaking rainfall in some areas while others suffer scorching summer heat and drought that threatens crops.

World

Russia promises retaliation after Ukrainian drones hit its tanker

AP

In this image from video made available on Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023, a seaborne drone approaches a Russian tanker on the Black Sea. Ukrainian drones have hit a Russian tanker in the Black Sea near Crimea, according to Russian officials.

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Moscow promised retaliation Saturday after Ukrainian drones hit a Russian tanker in the Black Sea near Crimea late Friday, the second sea attack involving drones in one day.

Ukraine struck a major Russian port earlier on Friday.

Moscow strongly condemned what it sees as a Ukrainian "terrorist attack" on a civilian vessel in the Kerch Strait, said Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova.

"There can be no justification for such barbaric actions, they will not go unanswered and their authors and perpetrators will inevitably be punished," she wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

As Kyiv's naval capabilities grow, the Black Sea is becoming an increasingly important battleground in the war.

Three weeks ago, Moscow withdrew from a key export agreement that allowed Ukraine to ship millions of tons of grain across the Black Sea for sale on world markets. In the wake of that withdrawal, Russia carried out repeated strikes on Ukrainian ports, including Odesa.

An official with Ukraine's Security Service confirmed to The Associated Press that the service was behind the attack on the tanker, which was transporting fuel for Russian forces. A sea drone, filled with 450 kilograms (992 pounds) of TNT, was used for the attack, added the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to give official statements.

"The Sig tanker ... suffered a hole in the engine room near the waterline on the starboard side, presumably as a result of a sea drone attack," Russia's Federal Agency for Marine and River Transport wrote on Telegram, adding that there were no casualties among the 11 crew members.

Vladimir Rogov, a Kremlin-installed official in Ukraine's partially occupied southern Zaporizhzhia region, said several members of the ship's crew were wounded because of broken glass.

Pilgrims brave scorching heat for pope's vigil in Lisbon

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—An estimated 1.5 million young people filled a field in the Portuguese capital Lisbon on Saturday for Pope Francis' World Youth Day vigil, braving scorching heat to secure a spot for the evening prayer and to camp out overnight for his final farewell Mass on Sunday morning.

Francis made only brief remarks before them, however, and ditched his prepared speech for the fourth time in two days. Instead, the 86-year-old pontiff delivered a lively, 10-minute off-the-cuff chat in his native Spanish about journeying together and helping one another. "No fear, thanks, ciao!" he said at the end before aides pushed him in his wheelchair to the side of the stage.

Temperatures had soared to 38 Celsius (95 Fahrenheit) on Saturday in Lisbon and were forecast to top 40 C (104 F) on Sunday. The heat forced pilgrims to shelter under umbrellas and makeshift shades of plastic canvas sheets tied between trash bins in the otherwise exposed field on the edge of the River Tagus.

Crews blew misters at the pilgrims to try to cool them down as they made their way into the venue at the peak of the day's heat, many flying their national flags. They formed long lines to fill water bottles from what organizers said were more than 400 faucets around the field.

Smoke from a spate of wildfires that broke out around Portugal during a weekend spike in temperatures cast a haze over the sky as they arrived on foot from all around the city for one of the liturgical highlights of the Catholic youth festival. Citing local organizers, the Vatican said an estimated 1.5 million people were on hand.

Lan Young Modesta Cheong, a pilgrim from South Korea, said the heat was bad but her group made use of the trash bins to create shade.

"At first we were not so comfortable with it because is dirty and it maybe smelly but at a certain point it became our tent, it's kind of a miracle and for me it is a bit the spirit of World Youth Day," she said. "We started using a useless dirty thing to support us and use it to avoid the heat and all these difficulties."

Francis presided over the evening vigil after spending the morning at the Catholic shrine in Fatima.

There, he ditched his prepared speech and a prayer for peace. The prayer had been expected to be a highlight of Francis' visit to Fatima, given the shrine's century-old affiliation with exhortations of peace and conversion in Russia and the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Francis instead "prayed silently for peace, with pain," while meditating for a long period before a statue of the Virgin Mary, Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said. And the Vatican later posted the prayer on the platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

Health & Wellness

FDA approves pill to treat postpartum depression

By ANGELICA PEEBLES
Bloomberg News

A fast-acting depression pill from Biogen Inc. and Sage Therapeutics Inc., the first specifically intended to treat postpartum depression, was cleared for the market by U.S. regulators.

The drug, which will be sold as Zurzuvae, is designed to help people feel better in a matter of days, instead of weeks like most commonly used antidepressants. It's meant to be taken for only two weeks. The FDA approved the drug, granting the application priority review and fast track designation.

"Postpartum depression is a serious and potentially life-threatening condition," said Tiffany R. Farchione, director of the Division of Psychiatry in the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. "Having access to an oral medication will be a beneficial option for many of these women coping with extreme, and sometimes life-threatening, feelings."

The partners see a big opportunity. An estimated 21 million adults in the U.S. experienced at least one major depressive episode in 2020, according to a National Institutes of Health estimate. About one in eight new mothers experiences postpartum depression, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

DREAMSTIME

A fast-acting depression pill from Biogen Inc. and Sage Therapeutics Inc., the first specifically intended to treat postpartum depression, was cleared for the market by U.S. regulators.

Zurzuvae, a daily pill, helped people feel better within days in clinical trials. However, the drug has faced questions about whether the improvement lasts once people stop taking it. That could limit interest from doctors and insurers, especially with cheap generic drugs so embedded into the current treatment.

Biogen and Sage will also need to raise awareness of postpartum depression. Although it's common, one study found only about half of women with the condition are diagnosed and only about 10% are adequately treated. Sage sells an infused drug similar to Zurzuvae that's struggled to gain traction.

Kristina Deligiannidis, a principal investigator on Zurzuvae's postpartum depression clinical trials, thinks this time will be different since women will be more interested in taking a pill every day for two weeks rather than sitting through a nearly three-day infusion.

"This is really going to change the way we treat postpartum depression," said Deligiannidis, director of women's behavioral health at Northwell Health's Zucker Hillside Hospital.

It's possible Zurzuvae will be used to kickstart treatment and then be augmented with traditional antidepressants to ensure relief, said Samantha Meltzer-Brody, director of the University of North Carolina's Center for Women's Mood Disorders. Women in the postpartum trials continued feeling better for 45 days, but they weren't tracked beyond that, so doctors may want the security of a treatment that's known to work long-term, said Meltzer-Brody.

Before Biogen and Sage can start selling Zurzuvae, they'll need clearance from the Drug Enforcement Administration, which categorizes certain drugs based on their potential for abuse. The companies anticipate that will happen about three months after approval.

Analysts expect sales of about $1 billion for Sage by 2029 and $1.2 billion for Biogen, which will receive half of U.S. profits and has the rights to sell the drug in most international markets.

Embracing wellness following massive heart attack

By CYNTHIA WEISS
Mayo Clinic News Network

Editor's note: *This is a first-person account written by Kim Sidlak*

I was 46 years old when I had a massive heart attack. It was a Wednesday evening, June 4, 2014. It was a day I will never forget. My grandmother and mother both died from heart issues in their early fifties, so I knew heart disease ran in my family. I had read about heart disease in women, eating healthy, staying active, and keeping my cholesterol low. I tried to do all those things. However, six months before my heart attack, my doctor put me on high cholesterol medication. The reason was because I could not get my numbers low enough with diet and exercise alone.

I was working out regularly and actively enrolled in an 8-week boot camp fitness program. Then one evening, I came home with back pain between my shoulder blades. I assumed it was muscle related. I then talked to my trainer to let him know about my family history but, we kept moving forward with working out. Three weeks later I experienced the same pain again, however this time it got increasingly more painful, I laid down and told my husband to call 911. Due to my knowledge through reading about heart disease in women, I felt like this medical concern could be heart related.

By the time the ambulance arrived, I was in excruciating pain. I remember throwing up and getting cold sweats. I passed out as the paramedics were taking me down the steps. Looking back now, I can remember them hitting me telling me and saying, "Stay with us!" As I arrived at the Emergency Department, a defibrillator was used to revive me. I was taken back to have surgery immediately. My main artery was 100% blocked and a stent was inserted to restore blood flow to my heart.

For one month my recovery included cardiac rehabilitation. It also involved being placed on multiple medications for years afterwards. I was excited about going to cardiac rehabilitation because I was active before my heart attack and wanted to be active again as soon as I could. Cardiac rehabilitation involved exercising three times a week while being monitored. Once a week I would receive education about heart disease, exercise, eating healthy, and my current medications. After the month of cardiac rehabilitation was complete, I was instructed to have someone with me while exercising which I did.

Nine years after the heart attack I follow a healthy diet, exercise daily, and pay attention to any signs or symptoms of heart disease. My diet consists of low-fat proteins including fruits and vegetables. I also eat good carbohydrates including oatmeal and whole wheat breads. I see my primary doctor and cardiologist yearly. I also monitor my blood pressure at home. Fortunately, I am currently only taking one medication.

Looking back on this experience, the most useful advice I would pass along is to stay active, follow a heart healthy diet, and manage stress as much as possible. Even moderate activity like walking is so important to our health but all these actions collectively play a role in being healthy. Be sure to talk with your doctor if you have any concerns about heart health. Know your numbers as far as blood pressure and cholesterol. I learned that heart disease does not just happen to individuals that lead an unhealthy lifestyle and I hope that my story resonates with others. I have found that total wellness requires taking care of yourself physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

CONSUMER HEALTH:
Questions about breastfeeding

By LAUREL KELLY
Mayo Clinic News Network

The American Academy of Pediatrics has affirmed its recommendation and advocacy for breastfeeding, stating, "Research has shown that breastfeeding is linked to decreased rates of lower respiratory tract infections, severe diarrhea, ear infections and obesity. Breastfeeding is associated with lower risk of sudden infant death syndrome, as well as other protective effects."

Specifically, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation is for:

- Exclusive breastfeeding of infants for the first six months of life before introducing nutritious complementary foods.
- Maternity care practices at birth hospitals or centers that improve breastfeeding initiation, duration and exclusivity.
- Breastfeeding as long as mutually desired for two years or beyond.
- Support of mothers who choose to breastfeed beyond the first year, including protections against workplace barriers.
- Policies that protect breastfeeding and are essential to supporting families in sustaining breastfeeding.

As important as breastfeeding is, though, it can be challenging. And it's like any other new skill: It needs to be learned, and questions and concerns often can arise along the way.

Learning the positions that work best for you and your baby is an important first step. A newborn's feeding pattern can be unpredictable, but you can look for cues from your baby that can signal readiness to feed and satisfaction when finished.

Maintaining your milk supply during breastfeeding is important for your baby's health and growth. Many factors can cause a low milk supply, including not breastfeeding often enough, supplementing breastfeeding and an ineffective latch.

Babies sometimes suddenly will refuse to breastfeed after breastfeeding well for months. This doesn't necessarily mean your baby is ready to wean, though. Your baby may be trying to tell you something. Common causes of a "breastfeeding strike" include discomfort from teething, thrush or an ear infection; a cold or stuffy nose that makes breathing difficult during breastfeeding; stress or distraction; and reduced milk supply. Here are some tips for managing this time and getting your breastfeeding pattern back on track.

Breast milk contains the right balance of nutrients for your baby to boost the immune system and promote growth and health. You might have questions, however, about your own diet while breastfeeding. What foods are best? Do you need to increase your calorie intake? Are there foods you should avoid? Here are some basic nutrition tips for breastfeeding moms.

If you need to take medications while you're breastfeeding, you may have questions about safety and the effects on your baby. Almost any drug that's present in your blood will transfer into your breast milk to some extent. Most medications do so at low levels and pose no risk to most infants. However, some drugs can become concentrated in breast milk. As a result, every medication must be considered separately.

Life & Style

Freddie Mercury's belongings on display before auction

LONDON (AP) —More than 1,400 of Freddie Mercury 's personal items, including his flamboyant stage costumes, handwritten drafts of "Bohemian Rhapsody" and the baby grand piano he used to compose Queen's greatest hits, are going on display in a free exhibition at Sotheby's London ahead of their sale.

The vast collection of the singer's personal belongings, which had been left to Mercury's close friend Mary Austin, had remained undisturbed in his west London mansion for 30 years since his death in 1991.

Austin, 72, said in a BBC interview in April that she has decided to sell almost all the items to "close this very special chapter in my life" and "put my affairs in order."

Among the hundreds of Mercury's personal treasures were previously unseen working drafts of hits "Don't Stop Me Now," "We Are the Champions" and "Somebody to Love."

The handwritten draft of "Bohemian Rhapsody" —which shows that Mercury experimented with naming the song "Mongolian Rhapsody" before crossing it out —is expected to fetch 800,000 to 1.2 million pounds ($1 million to $1.5 million.)

"We have here working lyrics for pretty much every song that Freddie Mercury wrote through the 1970s," said Gabriel Heaton, a specialist at the auction house. "We've got extensive working drafts that really showed how songs developed, how they changed, how they took shape in the most wonderful way."

The star of the show, however, is Mercury's beloved Yamaha baby grand piano, which is set to sell for 2 million to 3 million pounds ($2.5 million to $3.8 million). The piano survived several house moves, took center stage at his mansion, and was the heart of Mercury's musical and personal story from 1975 until his death, auctioneers said Thursday.

AP

Freddie Mercury's Yamaha Grand Piano, estimated at 2-3 million pounds, on display at Sotheby's auction rooms in London, Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023.

"Of all the objects that he had, this is the one that meant the most to him," Heaton said.

Many of the highlights conveyed Mercury's love of theatre and showmanship. There were his dazzling sequinned, skin-tight catsuits, leather jackets and the lavish red cape and crown he wore on his last Queen performance in 1986, as well as his collection of Japanese silk kimonos.

Other items were more personal and intimate, including a school book with the singer's name, Fred Bulsara, dating from the 1960s when he had just arrived in the U.K. with his family from Zanzibar. Visitors could study Mercury's detailed dinner party seating plans and menus, as well as handwritten invitations to his famous birthday bashes —including one dated 1977 that instructed guests to "Dress to Kill!"

Also on sale are Mercury's art collection, featuring works by Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali and Marc Chagall, as well as his eclectic antique furniture and numerous cat figurines.

"(Mercury) wrote this: 'I like to be surrounded by splendid things. I want to lead a Victorian life, surrounded by exquisite clutter,'" said Sotheby's furniture and decorative arts specialist Thomas Williams.

Adidas brings in $437M from first Yeezy sale

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Adidas brought in 400 million euros ($437 million) from the first release of Yeezy sneakers left over after breaking ties with Ye, the rapper formerly known as Kanye West, as the German sportswear maker tries to offload the unsold shoes and donate part of the proceeds to groups fighting antisemitism and other forms of hate.

The first batch of shoes released in June, which sold out, helped the company reach an operating profit of 176 million euros in the second quarter, better than it originally planned, Adidas said Thursday. A second sale started Wednesday.

After Ye's antisemitic and other offensive comments led the company to end its partnership with the rapper in October, Adidas said it had sought a way to dispose of 1.2 billion euros worth of the high-end shoes in a responsible way.

"We will continue to carefully sell off more of the existing Yeezy inventory," said CEO Bjørn Gulden, who took over in January.

"This is much better than destroying and writing off the inventory and allows us to make substantial donations to organizations like the Anti-Defamation League, the Philonise & Keeta Floyd Institute for Social Change and Robert Kraft's Foundation to Combat Antisemitism," Gulden said.

Adidas has already handed over 10 million euros to the groups and expected to give an additional 100 million euros, with further donations possible depending on how future sales go, Chief Financial Officer Harm Ohlmeyer said.

Several Jewish civic leaders contacted by The Associated Press said they weren't planning to buy a pair of Yeezys themselves but generally welcomed the plan to support anti-hate organizations, saying the company is trying to make the best of a bad situation.

The Adidas CEO said the Yeezy sales are "of course also helping both our cash flow and general financial strength."

The first sale unloaded roughly 20% to 25% of the Yeezy sneakers that were left stacked up in warehouses, contributing 150 million euros of Adidas' 176 million euros in operating earnings in the April-to-June quarter.

Lizzo says she's 'not the villain' after her 3 former dancers claim sex harassment

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lizzo said Thursday that she's "not the villain" that three of her former backup dancers falsely accuse her of being in a sexual harassment lawsuit.

The civil lawsuit filed Tuesday in Los Angeles Superior Court claims Lizzo pressured the dancers to engage with nude performers at a club in Amsterdam and shamed one of them for her weight gain before firing her.

"I am not here to be looked at as a victim, but I also know that I am not the villain that people and the media have portrayed me to be these last few days," Lizzo said in a statement posted on social media. "I am very open with my sexuality and expressing myself but I cannot accept or allow people to use that openness to make me out to be something I am not."

Plaintiffs Arianna Davis, Crystal Williams and Noelle Rodriguez made numerous allegations including sexual, religious and racial harassment, disability discrimination, assault and false imprisonment. They accuse the Grammy winner and her production company of creating a hostile work environment.

The legal complaint seeks unspecified damages from Melissa Viviane Jefferson, known professionally as Lizzo, her production company Big Grrrl Big Touring, Inc., and Shirlene Quigley, captain of the performer's dance team.

"These last few days have been gut wrenchingly difficult and overwhelmingly disappointing. My work ethic, morals and respectfulness have been questioned. My character has been criticized," Lizzo said in the statement. "Usually I choose not to respond to false allegations but these are as unbelievable as they sound and too outrageous to not be addressed."

Grown sons in the dark about couple's ancient history

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married for 38 years. We were both divorced prior to our marriage. Our marriage is great, and we have demonstrated this to everyone and especially to our boys. We decided early on to not say anything to our children about our prior marriages. The boys are now in their 30s. We raised them with solid values, one school district, long-term home, etc. We have no regrets.

We have been updating our living trust and other legal documents and have come across places that name the prior spouses. We are exploring our options in either removing these mentions, having a family meeting to reveal the information, or writing letters for them to read upon our passing. I think our boys can handle whatever we decide, but we are nervous. What are your thoughts and advice?

NERVOUS DAD IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR NERVOUS DAD: Your "boys" are no longer children; they are adults in their 30s. They may be less shocked about you and your wife having been married before than that you have kept it hidden from them all these years. If you cannot find the courage to have an honest discussion about this, include a letter to be given to them when your trust goes into effect after your demise.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have read many letters to you about poor relationships with siblings, and I have some advice of my own. You do not HAVE to like them! After many years of trying to fit in to a dysfunctional family, I finally realized, and made peace with the realization, that I do not like these people. I have different values and have worked hard to acquire a great education. This is looked down on by my siblings, who have a very narrow worldview. Their M.O. is to be friendly for a short time while denigrating another sibling. That changes overnight; the target person is now their best friend, and the other one is shunned. Realizing it is not necessary to like someone because we share the same bloodline has been liberating. I found peace by just letting them go.

GOT WISE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

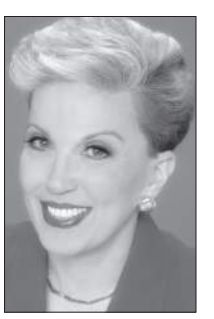
DEAR GOT WISE: Unfortunately, not all family relationships are healthy ones. If someone is manipulative or abusive, it is better to step back rather than tolerate it. I'm glad you had your epiphany and found peace. Not everyone recognizes what you did as quickly as you, and they have suffered for it. Your letter illustrates why many of them have formed a supportive chosen family.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

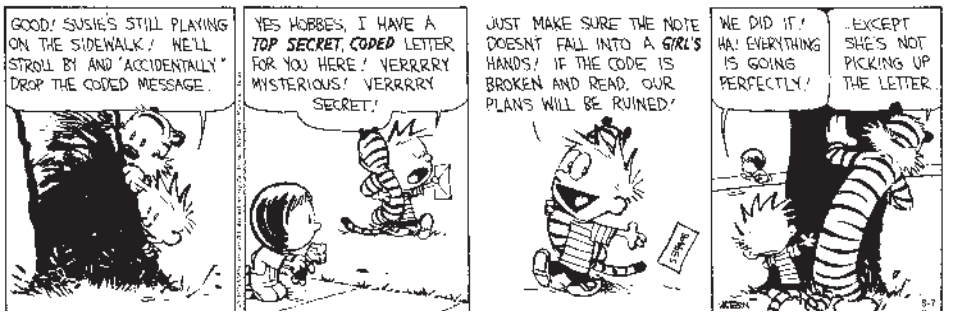


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

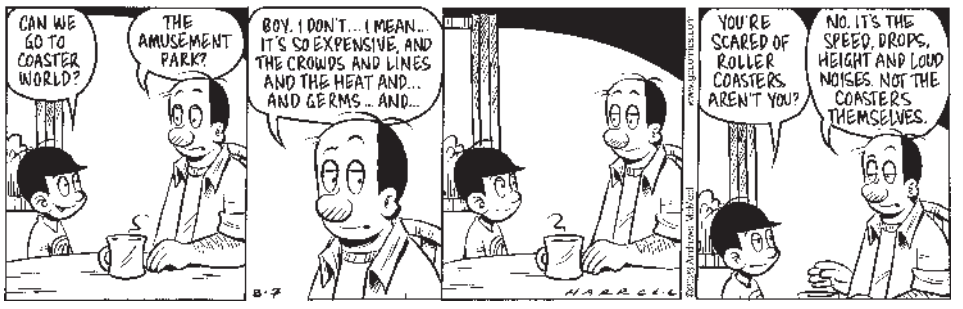

GOOD! SUSIE'S STILL PLAYING ON THE SIDEWALK! HE'LL STROLL BY AND "ACCIDENTALLY" DROP THE CODED MESSAGE.
YES HOBBES, I HAVE A TOP SECRET, CODED LETTER FOR YOU HERE! VERRRRY MYSTERIOUS! VERRRRY SECRET!
JUST MAKE SURE THE NOTE DOESN'T FALL INTO A GIRL'S HANDS! IF THE CODE IS BROKEN AND READ, OUR PLANS WILL BE RUINED!
WE DID IT! HA! EVERYTHING IS GOING PERFECTLY!
...EXCEPT SHE'S NOT PICKING UP THE LETTER.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CAN WE GO TO COASTER WORLD?
THE AMUSEMENT PARK?
BOY, I DON'T... I MEAN... IT'S SO EXPENSIVE, AND THE CROWDS AND LINES AND THE HEAT AND... AND GERMS... AND...
YOU'RE SCARED OF ROLLER COASTERS, AREN'T YOU?
NO. IT'S THE SPEED, DROPS, HEIGHT AND LOUD NOISES. NOT THE COASTERS THEMSELVES.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

TAKING ANOTHER NAP? YOU SHOULD GET SOME EXERCISE!
WHY DON'T YOU GO FETCH A STICK OR SOMETHING?!
OKAY. WILL YOU THROW ONE FOR ME?
WHAT TIME DO YOU WANT ME TO WAKE YOU?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Wild guess
5 Six-pack muscles
8 Kilt wearer
12 "Cola" lead-in
13 Sony rival
14 Bern's river
15 Epps of "This Is Us"
16 Hip-hop artist with the 1990 hit "U Can't Touch This"
18 Eccentric
20 Capital of Portugal
21 Goofs
23 Cow's comment
24 Pedicure targets
28 Secret-protecting docs
31 Online address
32 Borscht base
34 Bank acct. entry
35 Online journal
37 Island hopper
39 Status follower
41 Nest setting
42 Fruit flaw
45 Steel guitar sounds
49 Natural viewing height
51 Writer Ephron
52 Look after
53 Pub serving
54 Animated figure
55 Bygone jets
56 Refusals
57 PTA and NEA, e.g.

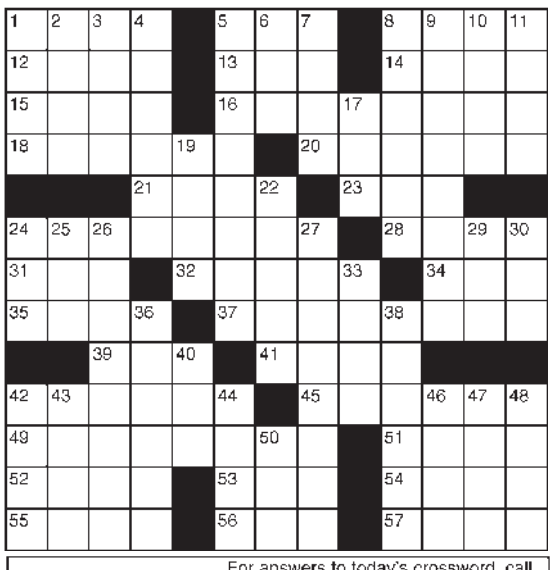
DOWN

1 Boat for hauling
2 Hefty book
3 Super-fruit berry
4 Lacking vegetation
5 Military depots
6 Abbr. in an email
7 Satirist Mort
8 Biblical strong fellow
9 Thailand's neighbor
10 Sweet sandwich
11 Seabird
17 Goal
19 Colorless
22 Winter forecast
24 Vat
25 Magic, on scoreboards
26 Silver-tongued
27 Causes one to flinch
29 Raggedy doll
30 Holy Fr. woman
33 Gush
36 Trade unions
38 Crude shed
40 Sugar suffix
42 Wagers
43 Deli loaves
44 Novelist Hunter
46 Former queen of Jordan
47 Pirate's drink
48 Without
50 "Evil Woman" band

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	I	R	S		E	A	C	H		A	E	R
P	O	S	H		L	O	R	I		U	T	E
A	U	T	O	P	I	L	O	T		T	A	B
I	S	U	R	I	S			M	O	O	L	A
			E	T		S	T	E	A	M		
A	M	A	S		C	I	I	O		T	A	D	S
I	A	U			I	I	A	I			I	A	O
M	O	T	H		A	G	O			A	S	S	T
		O	A	S	I	S		P	C			
R	E	L	I	C			Y	U	C	C	A	S
E	L	O		A	U	T	O	G	R	A	P	H
A	K	A		B	R	E	W		U	L	E	E
M	S	N		S	I	L	L		E	L	S	A

Last Friday's Answer



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mike Trout, 32; Charlize Theron, 48; David Duchovny, 63; Wayne Knight, 68.

Happy Birthday: Take your time and nurture yourself and the ones you love. Focus on maintenance, and refuse to let the changes or directions others take disrupt your plans. Make stability and security your priorities. Don't let desire, overindulgence and last-minute changes push you in a direction that can compromise your position or long-term goals. Take better care of your money, health and emotional well-being. Your numbers are 5, 14, 17, 22, 27, 39, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Pressuring others and making demands will set you back. Working alone will build confidence and encourage you to take on more moving forward. Refuse to let someone stand in your way or control your destiny. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't jump to conclusions. Address your to-do list and get satisfactory results. A change of heart will be due to how someone treats you. Let your intelligence, not your heart, be your guide. Mix business with pleasure, and you'll gain respect and support. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Do your homework; someone will leave out important information. Make your priorities comfort, home and self-improvement, and verify facts before participating in something that might hurt your reputation, position or productivity. Keep your thoughts and plans a secret. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Align yourself with like-minded people. Reach out to those with something to contribute and who are well versed in your goal. Distance yourself from those trying to redirect you, take advantage of you or tempt you to indulge. 4 stars

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Snap decisions will lead to trouble. Stay on the straight and narrow path and refuse to let temptation lure you in a different direction. Put your energy into living up to your promises and maintaining a good reputation that protects your status quo. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Keep your plans to yourself until everything is ready to launch. It's up to you to take advantage of opportunities and turn something that interests you into a masterpiece. Your tireless work and enthusiasm will help you surpass expectations and dazzle onlookers. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Make every move count. Concentrate on participating physically in a cause that concerns you instead of donating. The process and experience, not the tax write-off, will enrich you. Spend time with loved ones doing things that bring you joy. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Size up your situation, use your skills and experience to achieve the changes you want to make, and consider partnering with someone who shares your vision. Use your imagination and persistence to position yourself for success. Don't let emotions stifle your plans. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Listen carefully and question anything that sounds unrealistic. Take a stance and make physical changes to protect yourself from anyone trying to push you in an incompatible direction. A makeover will stroke your ego and raise your self-esteem. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You are sitting in a better position than you realize. Don't waste time or let someone control the outcome. Be aggressive and say and do whatever it takes to reach your objective. Invest more time and money in making your surroundings comfortable and convenient. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You'll need patience and the courage to say no to anyone trying to talk or tempt you into doing something erratic. Do your own thing if you want to make progress. Be secretive until you are ready to promote. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Follow the money. Partner with someone who has as much to contribute as you do. Speak up, make plans and follow through. Don't let your emotions steer you in the wrong direction. Use your imagination and contacts to reach your goal. Positive change is apparent. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are spontaneous, generous and understanding. You are wise and thorough.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9	7	1		2				4
	2		5	9		3		
5		4			6	2	9	
	6					1	3	
	1		3	8	7		6	
3		5	1				8	
		3	4	5		7	2	
4	9	6				5		3
7								9

Difficulty: ★ 8/7

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

5	8	3	9	6	2	4	7	1
7	4	9	8	1	5	6	3	2
1	2	6	4	3	7	5	9	8
8	5	1	2	7	3	9	4	6
9	6	7	5	4	1	2	8	3
4	3	2	6	9	8	7	1	5
6	1	8	7	5	9	3	2	4
3	7	4	1	2	6	8	5	9
2	9	5	3	8	4	1	6	7

Difficulty: ★★★★ 8/4

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DENVER WINS 2023 NBA FINALS Solution: 6 letters

C	F	H	I	S	H	T	O	O	B	R	A	U	N	S
N	A	I	T	S	I	R	H	C	R	P	S	S	A	P
Z	E	N	N	I	J	A	N	N	Y	O	Ⓔ	Ⓜ	Ⓐ	Ⓖ
W	E	E	C	A	M	N	B	A	A	O	O	K	D	B
A	W	K	R	A	L	S	R	S	N	H	R	I	R	N
T	N	R	E	G	R	R	E	T	T	O	N	O	I	I
S	T	E	G	G	U	N	E	A	E	I	W	L	B	V
O	A	T	G	M	I	N	D	N	K	N	L	V	B	L
N	E	R	I	D	O	L	K	O	V	O	E	I	L	A
C	H	O	E	S	E	E	L	L	C	T	P	C	E	C
I	I	P	K	A	N	A	A	E	I	Y	O	T	C	O
K	M	C	H	O	M	T	N	H	S	E	P	O	U	A
O	A	C	L	A	K	N	W	D	E	P	U	R	R	C
J	I	A	J	O	R	D	A	N	R	R	I	Y	B	H
M	M	R	B	E	C	K	E	T	T	E	J	E	F	F

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Beckett, Booth, Braun, Brown, Bruce, Bryant, Calvin, Cancar, Christian, Coach, Collin, Court, DeAndre, Dribble, Final, Game, Gillespie, Green, Hoop, Ish, Jackson, Jamal, Jeff, Jokic, Jordan, Kroenke, Malone, Miami Heat, Michael, Murray, NBA, Nikola, Nnaji, Nuggets, Pass, Peyton, Pope, Porter, Reed, Reggie, Smith, Stan, Thomas, Victory, Vlatko, Watson, White, Zeke

Last Saturday's Answer: Children

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Miyazawa scores 5th goal as Japan beats Norway to reach quarters

AP

Japan's players celebrate after Hinata Miyazawa scored their third goal during the Women's World Cup second round soccer match between Japan and Norway in Wellington, New Zealand, Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Japan scored its 14th goal of the Women's World Cup and conceded its first Saturday, beating Norway 3-1 to reach the quarterfinals for the fourth time.

Hinata Miyazawa sealed the win with her fifth goal of the tournament in the 81st minute to remain the leading scorer. Risa Shimizu's 50th-minute goal followed an Ingrid Syrstad Engen own goal in the first half to help give Japan its fourth straight win of the tournament.

With five goals the 23-year-old Miyazawa equals the record for a Japan player at a World Cup. Homare Sawa scored five in 2011 when Japan won the tournament. She won the Golden Boot that year.

This Japan team already has scored more goals than the 2011 team.

Guro Reiten headed a superb goal for Norway in the 21st minute to end Japan's flawless defensive performance and leave the teams locked 1-1 a halftime.

After beating Spain 4-0 with only 23% of possession in its group-stage finale, Japan once again was a tactical chameleon in the round of 16 — playing with more than 60% of possession in a commanding performance.

Japan traded its regular blue uniform for pastel colors Saturday, pink and purple. The softer color scheme did nothing to dull its attacking style; it pressed forward from the start and had its first corner after two minutes.

"We knew Norway were going to play to their strength but all of our players really worked hard," Japan coach Futoshi Ikeda said. "We made several adjustments in the second half and it was great that they led to the goals and the win.

"Whether we are No 1, we will find out if we continue winning. We will find out at the end."

While it was ineffective, it was an early declaration of intent. With long balls or sharp, quick passing, Japan continually pressed forward and Norway, which conceded only one goal in group play, often seemed rattled at the back.

When the defense finally yielded, it was in unusual circumstances. In the 15th minute Miyazawa curled the ball in from depth on the left and Engen extended her leg to parry the ball. She managed only to deflect it wide of Aurora Mikalsen in goal for the eighth own goal of the tournament.

Japan seemed well on top but in the 21st minute, and from the first time in the match Norway had threatened, Vilda Boe Rise got away on the right, took the ball to the byline and crossed to the middle where Guro Reiten stood tall and headed wide of the diving Ayaka Yamashita into the left corner.

The goal came entirely against the run of play. After a half-hour, Japan had 183 completed passes to Norway's 88, had more than 60%, five shots on goal. Miyazawa, Aoba Fujino, Jun Endo and others had been threatening.

Shimizu's winner came in the 50th minute as Japan pushed forward again from halfway. Miyazawa tried to hold up the ball near goal, lost possession to Boe Risa, who tried a back pass but rolled the ball into the path of Shimizu rushing in from the right to score.

"There is still a long way to go but after we felt frustrated in 2019, I feel like we've overcome an obstacle," Shimizu said. "We'll head to the next one, but I feel we got a really great victory today.

"Among us there were only positive words. Even when it became 1-1, no one has a negative mood. We could play in a very positive way."

Miyazawa produced a copybook finish in the 81st, running onto a superb through ball and directing her shot wide of Mikalsen.

Norway and Japan had met only once before at a World Cup, in 1999, when Norway won 4-0. Current Norway coach Hege Riise scored on goal in that match. On Saturday, Riise watched and admired the new Japan team and the quality of its attacking play.

"'I've seen them play in the group stage and they are a great team with a lot of good players and tactics," Riise said. "The plan was for us to be strong in defense and not let them play too much into us.

"But they did well. We played solid defense some times but not quite good enough. Regardless of who and how to play in the back five, I would say Japan was stronger than us."

Former Ballon d'Or-winner Ada Hegerberg started on the bench for Norway and was introduced late, indicating her fitness still may not have been up to scratch."

Japan now will play the winner of Sweden and the United States.

Spain 5, Switzerland 1

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)—Star playmaker Alexia Putellas came off the bench and goalkeeper Cata Coll made her full international debut on Saturday as Spain beat Switzerland 5-1 to reach the Women's World Cup quarterfinals for the first time.

Coll, who was the only uncapped player in Spain's roster, was a surprising replacement for Misa Rodriguez after Spain conceded four goals in a group-stage loss to Japan.

Spain coach Jorge Vilda made five changes to his starting lineup for the round of 16 match in response. That included a first start of the tournament for center back Laia Codina, who had an own goal early before scoring just before halftime to give Spain a 4-1 lead.

Two-time Ballon d'Or winner Putellas had a 10-month layoff with a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee and is still recovering. Spain coaches have managed her gametime so far over the last month.

She went on in the 77th minute against Switzerland when the result was already beyond doubt.

US, Sweden meet again in match that will eliminate either Rapinoe or Seger

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)—Three powerhouse teams play on the second day of the Women's World Cup knockout stage and at least one of the best will be eliminated.

The United States is the two-time reigning tournament champions and ranked No. 1 in the world. But their lackluster play in the group stage stopped the Americans from winning their group, which knocked them down to second and a Sunday match against Sweden in the round of 16.

Sweden is ranked third in the world and won its group by sweeping all three games. The seventh World Cup meeting between the two teams — the most frequent matchup in tournament history — will be played in Melbourne, Australia.

Netherlands, meanwhile, is ranked ninth in the world and faces South Africa in Sydney. The Dutch were runners-up to the United States in the 2019 World Cup final.

"Everything is related to our ambition as a football country," Netherlands coach Andries Jonker said through a translator. "Being part of the top-10 in the ranking, that's my goal, and if you want to achieve that, you need to show something and we want to do that in our way."

US-SWEDEN

One of the top players in women's soccer will end her World Cup career after the match between the United States and Sweden.

Megan Rapinoe, the Golden Boot winner of the 2019 tournament with six goals and three assists for the Americans, has said she will retire after the World Cup. Same for Sweden midfielder Caroline Sege r, who said her fifth World Cup will be her last.

Both teams want to win Sunday to ensure their superstar centerpiece can continue in the tournament. For Seger, the World Cup is the one gap on her resume.

Seger's 235 appearances for Sweden are the most for any female player in Europe, and although she has two Olympic silver medals and two World Cup bronze medals, Sweden has never won a major tournament. Seger's teammates don't want to see her career end without a chance to play for the World Cup title.

"We get very, very motivated by that," defender Nathalie Bjorn said. "We will have full focus on Sunday. We will do everything we can as a team, as individuals, then we will make sure we knock out the U.S."

The 38-year-old Seger has been struggling wit a calf problem all year and trained alone in the two days of practice leading into the showdown with the U.S.

Rapinoe, meanwhile, has taken on a smaller role for the Americans in her final tournament. Also 38, she was a substitute in the United States' first and third games of group play and didn't get off the bench in the middle match.

American striker Alex Morgan said both Rapinoe and Seger have had "incredible" careers.

"I'm very optimistic about our chances tomorrow, but regardless, these are players that have really changed the game," Morgan said. "Not only in Sweden and the U.S. but globally. Having been able to play with both of them, they're great teammates and have been leaders for so long at the highest stage. They're huge impact players."

The U.S. scored just four goals in the opening stage, but Rapinoe said she wasn't overly concerned about what has appeared to be a lackluster start to the tournament — the team still managed to advance. And she clearly didn't want her World Cup journey to end just yet.

"We got out of the group what we wanted to get out of the group, which was to get to the next round," Rapinoe said. "Obviously, we want to win the games. Obviously, we want to play great and score a bunch of goals. And we didn't do that. So we know that that can be better."

The U.S. will play without Rose Lavelle, who picked up her second yellow card of the tournament in the group stage finale and has to sit out against Sweden.

The Americans also trained without veteran defender Kelley O'Hara on Saturday.

Despite the U.S. team's struggles, Sweden isn't expecting anything less than the best.

"We're super excited. We're playing against the U.S., they're No. 1 in the world, you can never underestimate them," Sweden midfielder Kosovare Asllani said.

NETHERLANDS-SOUTH AFRICA

Netherlands is trying to finish one spot higher in the Women's World Cup than it did in 2019, when the Dutch lost to the United States in the championship match.

The first step in the round of 16 is No. 54-ranked South Africa, which notched its first win in a World Cup in a group-stage finale. A 3-2 win over Italy advanced the Banyana Banyana to the knockout stage for the first time in team history.

Verlander pitches 7 innings to start 2nd stint with Astros but loses to Yankees

NEW YORK (AP)—Justin Verlander began his second stint with the Houston Astros by pitching seven solid innings, but he gave up a go-ahead homer to Jake Bauers that sent the New York Yankees to a 3-1 victory Saturday.

Verlander (6-6) allowed seven hits, his second most this season and lost a regular-season start to the Yankees for the first time since June 19, 2015, with Detroit. He struck out four and walked two and fell to 10-8 lifetime against the Yankees in the regular season.

Rookie Anthony Volpe lifted a sacrifice fly in the second against Verlander for the Yankees, who won for the third time in four games. Gleyber Torres added a homer to open the eighth off Kendall Graveman.

Ian Hamilton (2-1) pitched two innings to earn the win, Tommy Kahnle pitched the seventh and Michael King struck out Altuve looking at a full count changeup to end the eighth with a runner on. Clay Holmes earned his 16th save.

Jose Altuve hit his 200th career homer off Nestor Cortes in the third, but that was Houston's only hit off the Yankees left-hander.

CUBS 8, BRAVES 6

CHICAGO (AP)—Dansby Swanson homered against his former team in a five-run first inning and Chicago's bullpen staved off the major league-leading Atlanta in a rain-soaked win.

Jeimer Candelario hit his first home run since being reacquired by the Cubs, and Ian Happ also went deep.

Chicago went into the game leading the majors in runs since the All-Star break and bounced back after getting shut out 8-0 by Atlanta on Friday. The Cubs began the day 2 1/2 games behind NL Central-leading Milwaukee and two games out of a wild-card spot.

Chicago opened a 5-0 lead early and never looked back. After an error by first baseman Matt Olson allowed two runs to score, Swanson hit his 17th home run off All-Star Bryce Elder (8-3) to make it 4-0. Elder went 4 1/3 innings and permitted seven runs (five earned) on seven hits.

ORIOLES 7, METS 3

BALTIMORE (AP)—Gunnar Henderson and Anthony Santander homered, Kyle Gibson pitched seven innings of four-hit ball to earn his 100th win and the surging Baltimore strengthened its position atop the AL East.

Gibson (11-6) gave up three runs, struck out nine and walked one. Over 11 seasons with Minnesota, Texas, Philadelphia and Baltimore, the 35-year-old righty is 100-97 in 291 games.

New York's Jeff McNeil hit a two-run homer in the fourth inning and added an RBI single in the sixth. But that wasn't enough punch for the Mets, who have been outscored 37-14 during their current skid.

TIGERS 4, RAYS 2

DETROIT (AP)—Jake Rogers drove in three runs and Akil Baddoo homered and Detroit won after losing its previous four meetings with Tampa Bay.

Tarik Skubal (2-1) picked up the win, allowing an unearned run and six hits in 5 1/3 innings. He struck out six while walking one. Beau Brieske earned his first career save.

PADRES 8, DODGERS 3

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Manny Machado homered into the second deck in left field in the fourth inning and then hit a go-ahead, two-run single in the seven-run eighth inning for San Diego, snapping a six-game losing streak to Los Angeles.

With the Dodgers leading 3-1, Yency Almonte (3-2) loaded the bases with one out and was replaced by Caleb Ferguson. Juan Soto hit an RBI infield single and a throwing error by second baseman Kiké Hernàndez on the play brought in the tying run. Machado then singled to left to bring in two more runs for a 5-3 lead.

The rally got big league ERA leader Blake Snell off the hook for a loss and spoiled the Dodgers debut of Ryan Yarbrough, who was impressive in his Dodgers debut. Nick Martinez (5-4) got the win.

RANGERS 9, MARLINS 8

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Rookie Josh Jung hit the third of three multi-run home runs for Texas in the middle innings and the Rangers overcame Miami for their fifth consecutive victory.

Robbie Grossman hit a three-run homer in the fourth, and Corey Seager had a two-run homer in the fifth preceding Jung's first-pitch, two-run shot.

Jon Gray (7-5) earned his first victory since June 2, allowing five runs — three earned — on six hits and two walks. Gray pitched on 11 days of rest, missing his previous rotation turn with lingering effects of a liner off his left shin July 19.

Will Smith got his 20th save in 22 opportunities despite allowing a two-run homer to Jake Burger.

ATHLETICS 2, GIANTS 1

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Seth Brown hit a tiebreaking single in the eighth inning and Oakland snapped a four-game losing streak.

Trevor May (3-4) recorded the final five outs for the win.

Joc Pederson hit a tying sacrifice fly in the eighth. The A's rallied in the bottom half against Ryan Walker (4-1). Pinch-hitter Aledmys Diaz singled and pinch-hitter Tony Kemp walked before Zack Gelof was intentionally walked to bring up Brown.

A's starter Paul Blackburn missed a chance to win back-to-back starts for the first time this year. He allowed two hits, struck out seven with three walks over six scoreless innings.

BLUE JAYS 5, RED SOX 4

BOSTON (AP)—Brandon Belt hit a solo homer over the Green Monster and had a go-ahead single, and Toronto held off Boston for the second straight day.

Making his first start after a splendid July when he posted a 1.84 ERA in five starts, Toronto's José Berríos (9-7) gave up three runs in 5 2/3 innings on six hits, with six strikeouts and no walks.

Erik Swanson got the final two outs for his fourth save after giving up Luis Urías' RBI single.

Rafael Devers hit his 26th homer, a long, game-tying three-run homer for Boston, which lost for the sixth time in seven games and fell into last place in the AL East.

PHILLIES 9, ROYALS 6

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bryce Harper singled, doubled and homered, Trea Turner doubled, homered and drove in four runs and Philadelphia defeated Kansas City.

Alec Bohm also went deep for defending NL champion Philadelphia, which entered holding the second wild-card spot.

Freddy Fermin homered twice for the Royals, who had won seven consecutive games.

Turner put Philadelphia ahead 8-6 with a three-run shot in the sixth off Angel Zerpa (0-1). It was Turner's 11th drive of the season and first since July 8.

Matt Strahm (7-3) pitched two scoreless innings of relief, and Craig Kimbrel tossed a scoreless ninth for his 19th save in 21 chances.

BREWERS 3, PIRATES 2, 10 INNINGS

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Blake Perkins singled with the bases loaded through the right side with two outs in the 10th inning to give Milwaukee a victory over Pittsburgh.

After pinch-hitter Brian Anderson struck out to open the 10th against Angel Perdomo (2-2), Mark Canha was walked intentionally. Both runners advanced on Christian Yelich's grounder to first. William Contreras was walked intentionally to load the bases and Perkins lined a 2-1 pitch into right to score Victor Caratini.

Devin Williams (6-3) got the win with a perfect 10th.

The Brewers tied it in the ninth when Carlos Santana, acquired from Pittsburgh before the trade deadline, singled to open off closer David Bednar. Pinch-runner Perkins advanced on a fly out, took third on a wild pitch and scored on rookie Sal Frelich's RBI single to center.

Brewers starter Corbin Burnes, the NL Pitcher of the Month in July when he went 4-1 with a 1.85 ERA in six starts, allowed just two hits, but needed 107 pitches to get through six innings, striking out five and walking four.

MARINERS 3, ANGELS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—George Kirby pitched seven stellar innings of three-hit ball for his career-best 10th victory, and Julio Rodríguez had a two-run double among his three hits in Seattle's fourth straight win.

Randal Grichuk homered and Shohei Ohtani went 0 for 4 for the Angels, who have lost five consecutive games since the MLB trade deadline passed. Injury-plagued Los Angeles has lost seven of nine overall, badly weakening the playoff chances of a team that acquired six veterans and didn't trade Ohtani in a desperate bid for its first playoff appearance since 2014.

Kirby (10-8) came through with another strong start for the Mariners, striking out five and issuing no walks while going seven innings for the fourth time in his last nine outings. The AL All-Star finished impressively, striking out three Angels in the sixth before getting three outs on only five pitches in the seventh.

Matt Brash got through the eighth with help from a slick double-play turn by shortstop J.P. Crawford. Muñoz survived the ninth for his fifth save despite walking C.J. Cron and allowing Mike Moustakas' single before Drury's ground-rule double.

TWINS 12, DIAMONDBACKS 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Ryan Jeffers homered twice and had three hits and four RBIs, Michael A. Taylor homered for the third straight game and Minnesota routed Arizona.

Edouard Julien and Max Kepler also had three hits and Kenta Maeda (3-6) tossed six strong innings as Minnesota won for the fourth time in five games to stretch its lead in the American League Central to 3 1/2 games.

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. homered for the second straight game, but the fading Diamondbacks had a season-low two hits and fell for the fifth straight game and sixth in seven games. Arizona is 7-21 since July 2.

WHITE SOX 7, GUARDIANS 4

CLEVELAND (AP)—A bench-clearing melee that began with Tim Anderson of the White Sox and José Ramírez of the Guardians exchanging punches at second base in the sixth inning led to six ejections during Chicago's victory over Cleveland.

Guardians closer Emmanuel Clase, manager Terry Francona and third base coach Mike Sarbaugh, and White Sox manager Pedro Grifol also were ejected for their actions during a 15-minute brawl that included three additional flare-ups.

Elvis Andrus hit a two-run homer and Vaughn, Luis Robert Jr. and Óscar Colás each had a solo shot off Guardians starter Noah Syndergaard (1-5), who allowed a career-high four home runs in his initial outing at Progressive Field.

White Sox right-hander Michael Kopech (5-10) carried a no-hitter into the sixth and exited after allowing two runs in 5 1/3 innings. He improved to 2-1 with a 1.78 ERA in five career starts against Cleveland.

CARDINALS 6, ROCKIES 2

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Tyler O'Neill homered, Steven Matz pitched six strong innings and St. Louis beat Colorado.

Matz (3-7) allowed one run and five hits while striking out six to improve to 3-0 with a 2.06 ERA in six starts since rejoining the Cardinals' rotation on July 9.

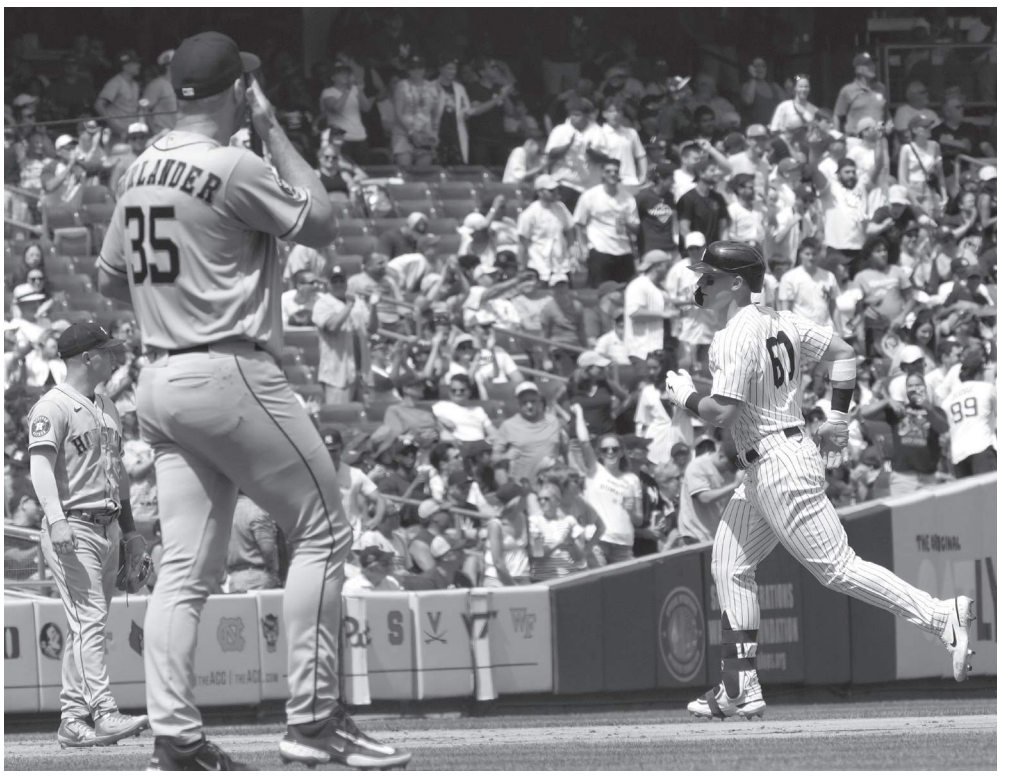
Rockies starter Ty Blach (1-1) allowed four runs and eight hits in 4 2/3 innings in his third start of the season.

NATIONALS 7, REDS 3

CINCINNATI (AP)—Joan Adon retired his first 17 batters and Washington beat Cincinnati, handing them a fifth consecutive defeat.

Lane Thomas knocked in two runs and scored twice to help the last-place Nationals match a season best with their third straight win.

The 24-year-old Adon (1-0), in his second stint with Washington this season, was working on a perfect game with two outs in the sixth inning when No. 9 batter Luke Maile lined a clean single to right field.



AP

Houston Astros starting pitcher Justin Verlander (35) watches as New York Yankees' Jake Bauers (61) run the bases after hitting a solo home run in the fifth inning of a baseball game, Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023, in New York.

Eagles clubs unveil newly refurbished Gualo Rai Basketball Court

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Club and the Saipan Maga'Lahi Eagles Club unveiled the newly refurbished Gualo Rai Basketball Court in a ribbon cutting ceremony last Thursday afternoon.

This, after the clubs "adopted" the court last February as part of Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho's "Adopt-a-Place Program."

The basketball court is the venue for the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEC Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023. There are eight teams in the master's division, 16 teams in the open division, and four teams in the 14-and-under division.

The games are from Monday to Saturday, 6pm to 10pm. Yesterday was the parade of teams and the first day of games.

In attendance during the ceremony was Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho, Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan), Senate President Edith Deleon Guerrero (D-Saipan), Rep. Roy Ada (R-Saipan), Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian), Rep. Malcolm Omar (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Julie Ogo (Ind-Rota), Saipan Mayor's Office staff, and Eagle club members.

Maria Aileen Arnold, vice president of the SMLEC, introduced the clubs and what their missions are in Saipan.

Afterwards, Mayor Camacho thanked the clubs for their hard work in restoring the court for recreation within the community. He said, "I believe in the word 'together'... if we work together, we can make a difference."

He added, "I thank you guys for all your time and effort… it's so beautiful. It's no longer an eyesore. Now, we can use this to promote recreation in our community… This is about the neighborhood and how we can educate the children not to vandalize. The people sacrificed their money to build it and it's not from the government. It shows that there's care, love, understanding, and respect for one another. Thank you for your contribution to this community."

Founded in 2021, the Saipan MagaLahi Eagles Club is a club of the Fraternal Order of Eagles or TFOE, the first fraternal socio-civic organization in the Philippines whose goal is to nurture brotherhood and serve the community, while the Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Club is a non-profit all-women socio-civic organization.

LEIGH GASES

The Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Club and the Saipan Maga'Lahi Eagles Club, with Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho, third from left, unveiled the newly refurbished Gualo Rai Basketball Court in a ribbon cutting ceremony last Thursday afternoon.

RACE

From page 20

fore him. As far as I know Carol is the most successful college player from the Pacific. Given her results this year against professional players I feel confident that she is going to be among the best ever women from the Pacific as well," said Race.

The many time Northern Marianas Sports Association Coach of the Year and CNMI Sports Hall of Fame inductee said Sinclair and Lee's success is a testament to the CNMI's strong junior tennis program.

"I think that their success is largely due to our strong junior tennis community, having just finished second overall in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships and claiming two titles and a number of other notable victories. I believe that we offer excellent coaching, the ability to play many tournament matches and to some extent being able to go off-island to compete," he said.

Race, however, admitted that tennis in the CNMI is far from perfect and went on to enumerate the challenges the sport is currently facing.

"Our biggest hurdle to greater success is in three areas. The first is the lack of a national training center. We can clearly see the difference in Guam junior tennis, with their juniors making some big strides as a consequence of their now having the best facilities in the Pacific.

The Northern Marianas Islands Tennis Association president said the second hurdle CNMI tennis is struggling with is the lack of funding.

"To be able to have our juniors playing in the higher level International Tennis Federation events, almost all of which require travel to locations thousands of miles away. The third is practice partners, as our pool of players on island who can play competitively and push our best juniors, like La Hunn [Lam], is quite small. At some point in the past players like Colin and Carol had to leave here to overcome these challenges. It doesn't have to be that way, but that is the past and current situation," he added.

Sinclair helped Pacific Oceania to one of three slots to promotions to Davis Cup World Group II Playoff in 2024 after beating Jordan, 2-1, in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

In the Group II promotion-clinching tie, Sinclair leveled the tie, 1-1, when he beat Zaid Shelbaya 6-1, 6-0 in the second singles.

Earlier, Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy lost to Jordan's Mohammad Lkotop, 6-7 (3), 4-6, as Pacific Oceania went down 0-1.

Sinclair then teamed up with Tonga's Matavao Fanguna to turn back Lkotop and Karam Hatamleh, 6-2 6-7(5) 6-3, to give the victory to Pacific Oceania.

Aside from Sinclair, Mainguy, and Fanguna, the Pacific Oceania team was also made up of Tahiti's Gillian Osmont and Vanuatu's Aymeric Mara, who served as player/captain.

Iran and Vietnam also earned promotion to Group II of the Davis Cup in 2024.

Lee, meanwhile, led Pacific Oceania to a perfect 5-0 record in the 2023 Billie Jean King Cup in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and promotion to Group I.

Pacific Oceania, the Pool A topnotcher, capped their 5-0 brilliance in the six-day tournament after subduing Pool B winner Indonesia, 2-0, on the final day of competition.

Aside from Pacific Oceania, Chinese-Taipei was the other team promoted to Group I.

Joining Lee in the team are Papua New Guinea's Violet, Patricia, and Abigail Apisah and Fiji's Saoirse Breen make up the Pacific Oceania.

OCEANIA TENNIS FEDERATION

The CNMI's Carol Lee, left, poses with teammates after topping the recent 2023 Billie Jean King Cup in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

NMI

From page 20

Guam's gameplay by the second game, regrouped and wasted no time to score a goal.

Sunjoon Tenorio found an opening past Guam goalkeeper Saena San Nicolas in the 28th minute for a 1-0 lead. The first half ended without any more trouble and Guam still remained scoreless, but NMI had other plans for the second half.

Markus Attao-Toves scored on an assist from Tenorio for the second goal in the 63rd minute, then as a substitute, Tanapon Unsa scored a freekick in extra time to seal the win, 3-0.

For NMI women, they blew the Guam team out of the water, 5-1, in their first game on Thursday. Guam tried to come back with a vengeance on Saturday for a harder matchup, but the NMI team managed still to blank them, 2-0.

In Saturday's game, the first half was a tough defensive game on both ends as it became a race to strike first, but to no avail.

But a few minutes before half time, NMI found an opening as they pressured Guam's defense when Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez made a great pass to Jerlyn Castillo, who then passed to Jannah Casarino, and with a great feed to an open Summer Manahane, made the kick past just one Guam defender and through to the net for the first goal of the game in the 36th minute.

In the second half, Guam tried to bounce back as they constantly made a push toward NMI's goal. They finally made a break for it around 50 minutes into the game but NMI's goalkeeper Deseha Mendiola made a great save amidst the attack.

Later, Chavez had possession of the ball and tried to make it in around the 58th minute but just barely missed. NMI still had an offensive advantage and just three minutes later, Manahane attempted another go at the goal but was a tad bit to the left.

NMI's offense wasn't done as they had many more chances for them to extend the lead, but Guam positioned themselves better and set out to switch the momentum to their side. Guam almost tied the game up in the 80th minute, but another spectacular save by Mendiola quickly doused their run at a goal.

With NMI's extensive push for the goal, they found themselves in Guam's territory, but it was Guam's possession.

Guam's captain Ariya Cruz kicked to pass the ball across the field to Sarah Benavente who fumbled it, then, with the beat of the drums and the cheers of the crowd in the background, Casarino, who was nearby, found the ball, dribbled past Benavente, positioned herself, kicked the ball past three other defenders, and then made it just out of a leaping reach of the goalie, for a 2-0 lead in the 85th minute.

As Guam was thoroughly defended, they did not get another chance at the goal even with six extra minutes from the regular time.

Aside from Tenorio, Unsa, and men's championship MVP Markus Attao-Toves, the NMI men's team also included Merrick Attao-Toves, Dev Bachani, Brian Lubao, Jireh Yobech, Kohtaro Goto, Ariel Narvaez Jr., Akira Kadokura, Daniell Pablo, Cody Shimizu, Ronnel Ocanada, Anthony Bergancia, Anthony Austria, Andrew Sablan, Monico Claridades, Zhi Xiang Lin, Leland Deleon Guerrero, and Vicente Reyes. They were coached by Michiteru Mita and their manager was Jershwin Angeles.

The NMI women's team along with Chavez, Borja, Mendiola, Casarino, and women's championship MVP Manahane, included Dianne Pablo, Khristelle Itaas, Christina Atalig, Katrina Costales, Jerlyn Castillo, Pia Ngewakl, Mia Abuan, Bernadette Horey, Aubrey Castro, Audrey Castro, Rizza Relucio, Tamia Kileleman-Hix, Sophia Quintos, Stephanie Flores, and Kelsey McClellan.

The Marianas Football Cup 2023 was supported by Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, USA Fanter, Triple J, IT&E, Quality Distributors, GPPC, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, D&Q, TakeCare Insurance, Island Apparel, and Marianas Visitors Authority.

GIOVANNONI

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When Chisato was asked how she completed the race without puking, she said "I just pace myself and during my training, I'm always full. I just enjoyed it and had so much fun."

Both Giovannoni and Chisato won a weekend for two Friday and Saturday nights in the Saipan Vegas hotel family rooms with free unlimited golf (subject to availability) and a $25 free play voucher for the game room courtesy of MarPac. All runners went home with a custom Beer Mile 500ml glass mug.

Run Saipan secretary/treasurer Dr. Ron Snyder said the turnout was lower than last year, but that the spectator participation was a lot higher.

As the organizer and a participant of the race, Snyder said "I really enjoyed it personally. When I finished my lap, I was amazed that I was in third place. Unfortunately, drinking a beer fast when I am out of breath is not a skill that I have. The results were very interesting. Some of the best runners on the island did not finish in the Top 5 or even the Top 10. It is a very different skill set for this race."

He added that the race for third was "amazing and definitely a crowd pleaser."

Snyder thanked Michelob Ultra and Saipan Vegas Country Club, while Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. thanked Run Saipan officials, MarPac, DTE Endurace, Northern Marianas Athletics, *Marianas Variety,* and *Saipan Tribune.*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Run Saipan board members pose with the Top 3 winners of the men's and women's division after the 2nd Annual Michelob Ultra Beer Mile 2023 last Friday at the Saipan Vegas Country Club.

Miyazawa scores 5th goal as Japan beats Norway to reach quarter.

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Sports

Eagles clubs unveil newly refurbished Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

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NMI sweeps Guam in Marianas Football Cup

LEIGH GASES

NMI's Jannah Casarino goes for the kick during the 85th minute and scores the second goal of the game against Guam's U23 women's team last Saturday at the NMISTC in Koblerville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The NMI men's U23 team including Kohtaro Goto, far left, celebrates after Tanapon Unsa, center, scored the third goal in their game against the Guam men's U23 team last Saturday at the NMISTC in Koblerville.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI U23 men's and women's national teams completed a sweep of Guam's U23 men's and women's teams in the first Marianas Football Club matchup since 2019.

Four games last Thursday and Saturday welcomed a lively and jam-packed crowd at the Northern Marianas Soccer Training Center in Koblerville as a live band kept pace with the action on the field.

The Cup was even more meaningful and historic as for the first time, the NMI men's team has won the Cup since its inception in 2007. It was also the first time NMI hosted the Cup since 2018.

The NMI men first fell to Guam, 0-1 on Thursday, but came back to win, 3-0, on Saturday and won the championship via the goal aggregate rule in which they get the combined number of goals scored by two teams over two or more games.

In the first game, Guam's Julian Harmon Curtis found his way into NMI territory and scored in the 25th minute for a 1-0 game. Half time came and went, and the NMI squad tried their best to snag a goal of their own, but Guam's defenses did not let up and claimed the first game.

The NMI, upon knowing

See NMI on Page 19

Giovannoni, Chisato are drunken masters of '23 Beer Mile

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the 2nd Annual Michelob Ultra Beer Mile 2023 pose for a photo after the race at the Saipan Vegas Country Club last Friday.

In celebration of International Beer Day last Aug. 4, over 50 beer guzzling runners took on the 2nd Annual Michelob Ultra Beer Mile 2023 challenge—all while trying to keep the contents of their stomachs from coloring the course.

Matthew Giovannoni and Rosemarie Chisato came out as the drunken masters of their respective divisions last Friday at the Saipan Vegas Country Club.

The runners had to drink one beer, run 400m, drink another beer, run 400m, drink a third beer, run 400m, drink a fourth beer and then take another 400m loop to finish the course.

Giovannoni finished the race at an impressive 7:40.05 and set the new course record, while Chisato came in at 10:33.10.

Second place in the men's division was last year's champion Leith Poole at 8:17.72 and Michael Mancao came in a close third place with 8:31.67.

After Chisato in the women's division was Kerri Bauer at 11:10.71, and third place was Ann Bang with a time of 12:05.97.

Tammy Ackerman, who was the women's division champion last year, led the way this year until the fourth and last lap when she had to take a detour into the jungle to let go of some beer. She then had to run an extra lap, so she ended up giving way to Chisato for first place.

Giovannoni said after the race that he didn't join last year, but decided to show up this year and said it was fun. It was a close race between him and last year's champion Poole and Giovannino that "he was right there behind me the entire time and it was my motivation."

The 37-year-old said that he is a regular beer drinker, with Busch as his beer of choice and said that he will definitely join next year's race. He said that he would recommend the race to people as "they could just come out and walk it, they don't have to run. It's fun."

See GIOVANNONI on Page 19

Race 'amazed' Colin, Carol led teams to promotions

OCEANIA TENNIS FEDERATION

The CNMI's Colin Ramsay, left, celebrates with his Pacific Oceania teammates after their promotion to Group II in the 2024 Davis Cup in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Former Pacific Oceania Davis Cup captain Jeff Race congratulated CNMI netters Colin Ramsay and Carol Lee for leading their respective Pacific Oceania teams from the No. 1 spot to promotion in the recent 2023 Davis Cup and 2023 Billie Jean King Cup.

"Well, by any measure it's quite amazing that this small locale out in the middle of the ocean has produced far and away both the current best male and female tennis players in the Pacific. On top of that they are both just great people. Colin has surpassed all other players from Pacific Oceania who came be-

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